

9

SAKURAKO
GOKURAKUIN





SEKIREI ⑨

Gokurakuin Sakurako



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Chapter 76: Sanada of the West







DON'T
THINK
WE'LL LET
YOU JUST
WALK
AWAY...

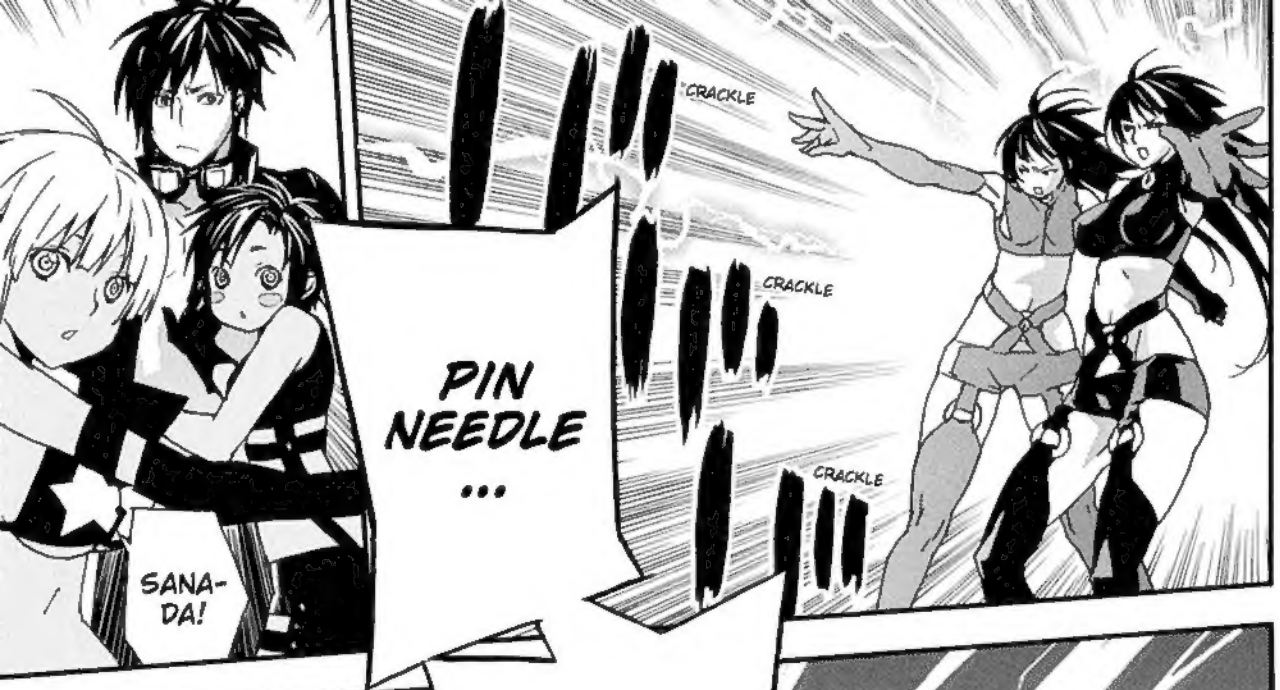
...AFTER
DOING
THAT
TO OUR
MAN!

SPARK

"LOVELIES
♡"? DON'T
MAKE US
SICK!

STOP
MESSING
AROUND!

HAH!!

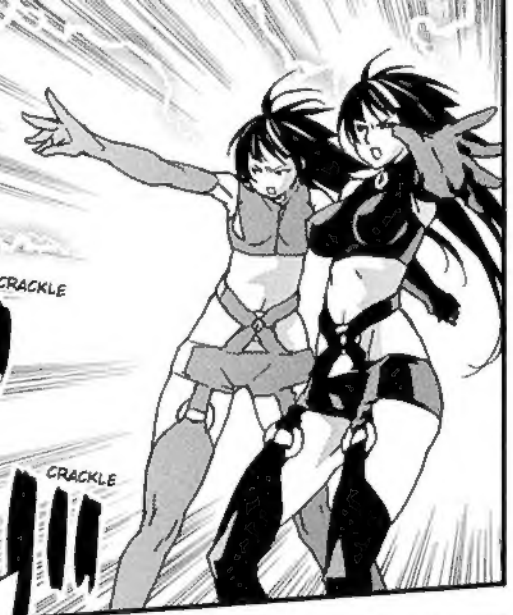


PIN
NEEDLE
...

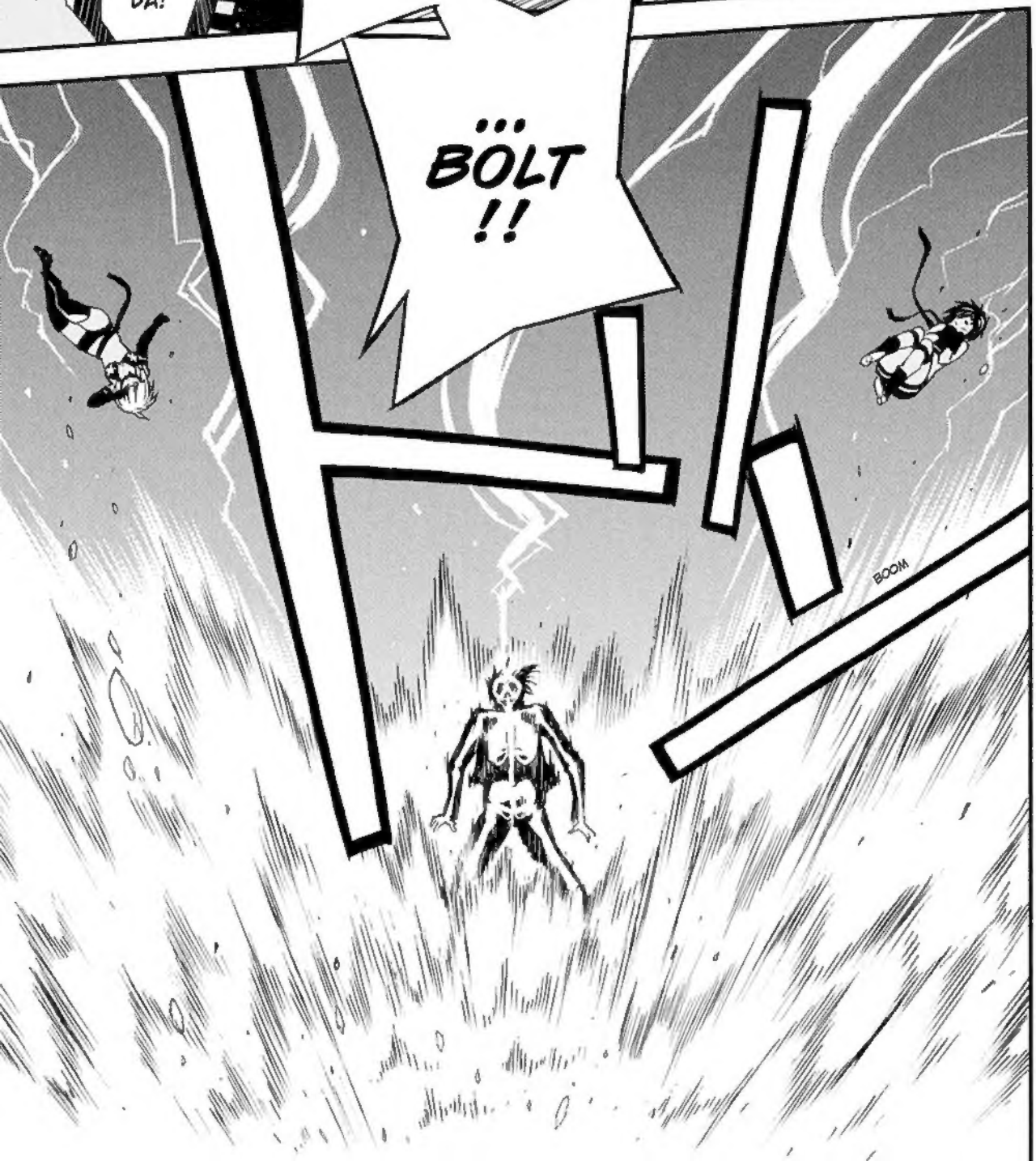
CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE



...
BÖLT
!!







IF YOU
SHOOT
LIGHTNING,
THEN YOU
SHOULD BE
WEARING
TIGER-
STRIPE
BIKINIS!!

**RIGHT
!?**



I
MEAN
—

WHERE'RE
YOU FROM
ANYWAY?



HUH?

YOU
MEAN
YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ME?



**AAARGH,
SERIOUSLY!?
HOW CAN
YOU NOT GET
WHAT I'M
SAYING!!?**

HIKARI
...

I THINK
WE'D
ACTUALLY
LOSE TO
HIM IN A
FIGHT...

**NO ONE'S
IN THE
MOOD FOR
YOUR WEIRD
JOKES!!**

**ARE
YOU A
MORON!?
PRETTY
SURE YOU
ARE!!**



I'M
NISHI
SANADA-
SAMA.

GOT
IT?



...MM-
HM...

...YUP.
HE'S A
MORON.

NISHI
SANADA.

NO,
NISHI
IS MY NAME.
MY NAME.



LUCK
070

...I
SEE.



SO
YOU'RE
SANADA,
HUH?



!
SANADA
OF THE
WEST
...!!



...!!

YOU'RE
ALL
RIGHT
—



SEO!

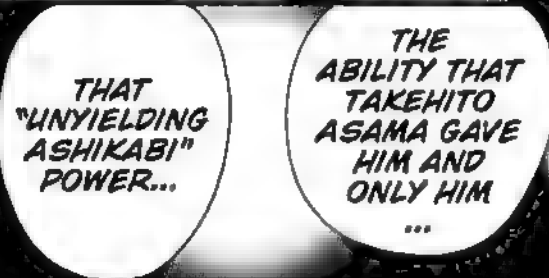
WHACKING
ME WITH A
PIPE? SOME
GREETING.

NOOO.



AHHH.







MASTER, I
THINK THEIR
STUPIDITY IS
CATCHING.
LET'S MOVE.

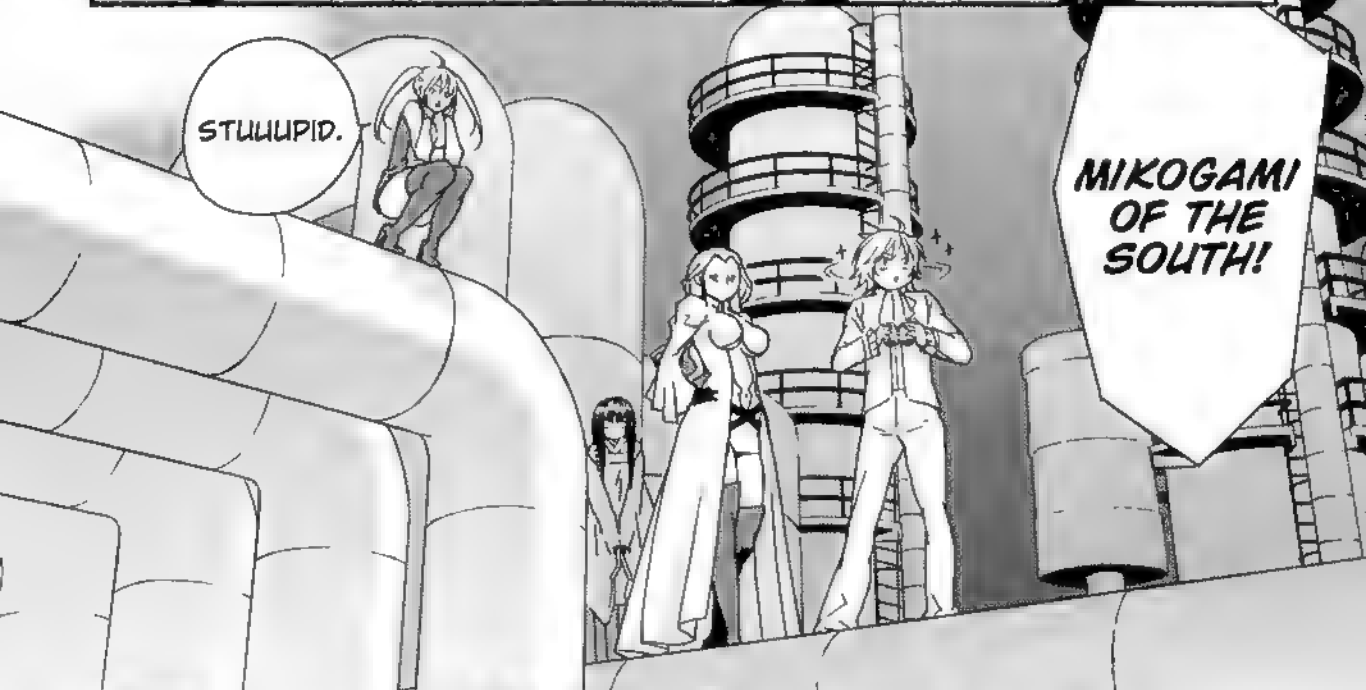


THESE
GUYS ARE WOOOW.
AS DUMB
AS EVER!



IT'S
HIM...!

DAMN.
THE THIRD
TEAM, AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS?



STUUUUPID.

MIKOGAMI
OF THE
SOUTH!



AND I AM
NO. 15,
HIMEKO.

DON'T
LUMP ME IN
WITH THAT
GOOD-FOR-
NOTHING.

I'M
NO. 39,
MITSUKI.



...
HUH?

NO. 38?
I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
PUT OUT OF
COMMISSION...

WHO'RE
YOU
CALLING
STUPID,
STUPID
!?

NO. 38!!
DON'T
YOU
MOVE!





**THAT'S
MY LINE,
MORON!**

**AND YOUR
WHOLE
TOUGH-
GUY ACT IS
PISSING
ME OFF!**

**YOU
WANT A
FIGHT?
YOU GOT
ONE.**

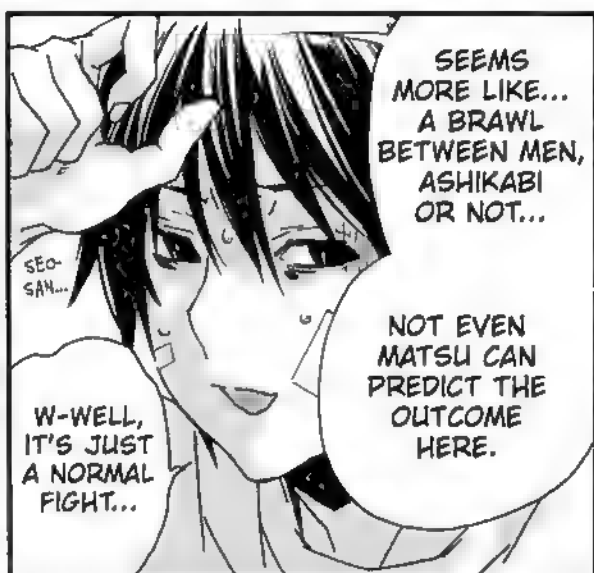
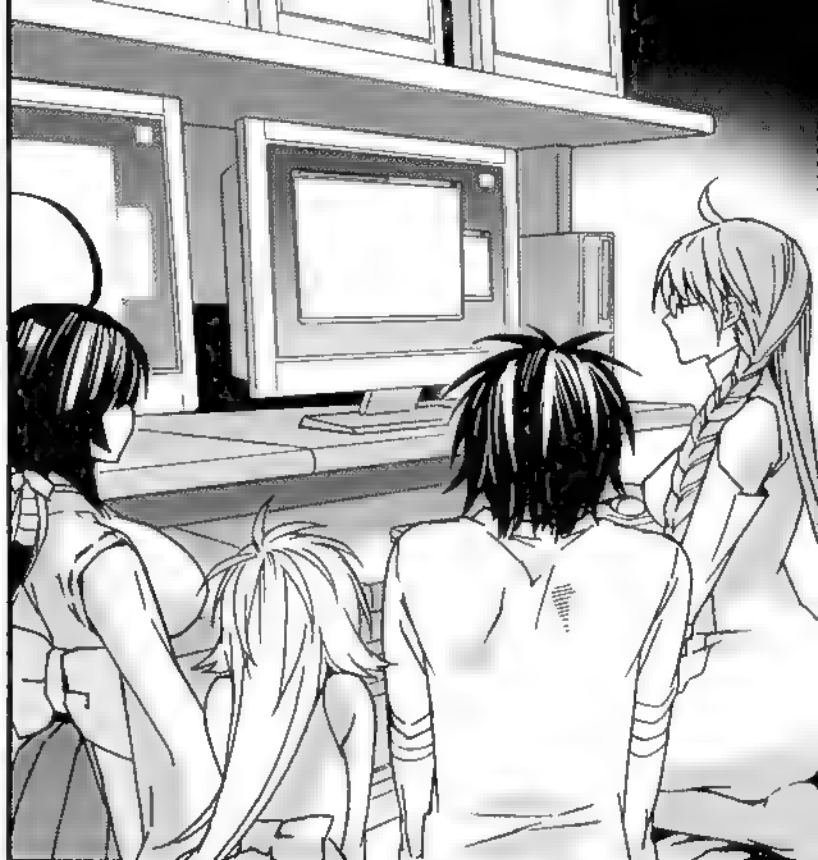
**SOUNDS
GOOD, YOU
BASTARD!**





Chapter 77: Scramble







BECAUSE
THEY'VE BEEN
CHASING
AFTER OTHER
SEKIREI ALL
YEAR.

...THEY'VE
GOT MORE
FIGHTING
EXPERIENCE
THAN I DO,
EVEN...
WHICH IS IMPRES-
SIVE.

IT DOES
SEEM LIKE
THOSE TWO
ARE EVER
DESTINED
TO LOSE,
BUT...



TSUKI-
LIMI...

IS
THAT
SO?

I WAS
UNDER THE
IMPRESSION
THAT THEY
WERE MERE
COMIC
RELIEF.



THEY
CERTAINLY
ARE IN-
TERESTING
SEKIREI...

I'M SURE
IT'S BECAUSE
TAKEHITO-SAN
WAS THEIR
MODIFIER.



Eh
heh
heh...

Such dis-
honor is
nothing
to boast
about!



THOSE
TWO ARE
VERY
STRONG!!

THEY BEAT
MUSUBI ONE
TIME!!

WHOA.



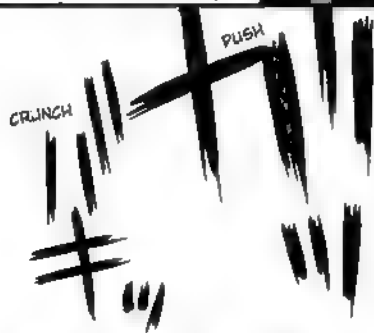




GORAAH!



URAAAH!



BAM WHAM
タタタ

TAKE
THAT
AND
THAT!

YOU
BAS-
TARD!

IT'S
USELESS TO
INTERFERE
IN A FIGHT
BETWEEN
MEN!

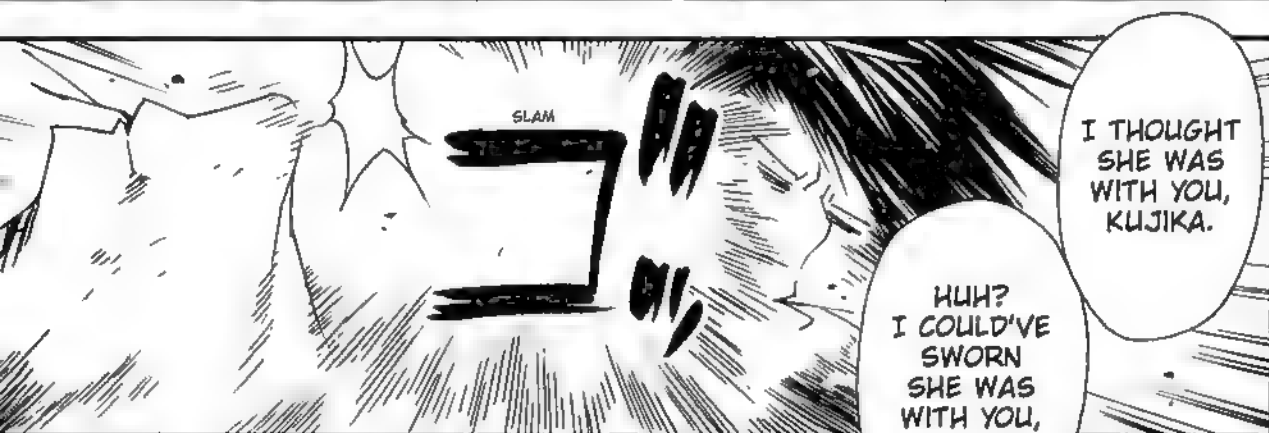
SO
BORED.

BORED.

WHAT
DO WE DO,
KUJIKI?

SHOULD
WE HELP
MASTER?

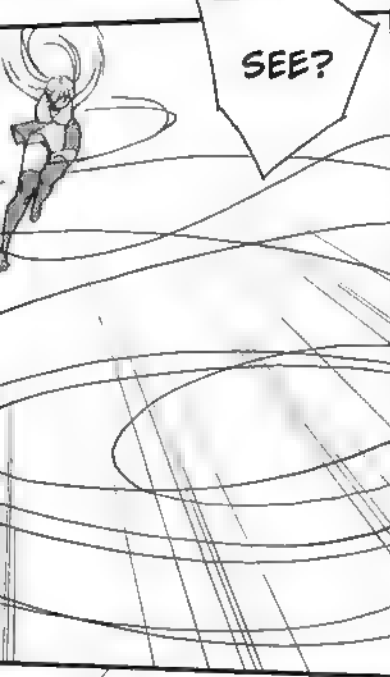
NO, NO,
KUZURI.







THAT
WON'T
WORK.



SEE?



BOOM



WRAP

!

FU-FU.
IT CAN'T
BE CUT.

THIS
IS MBI'S
SPECIAL
WIRE!

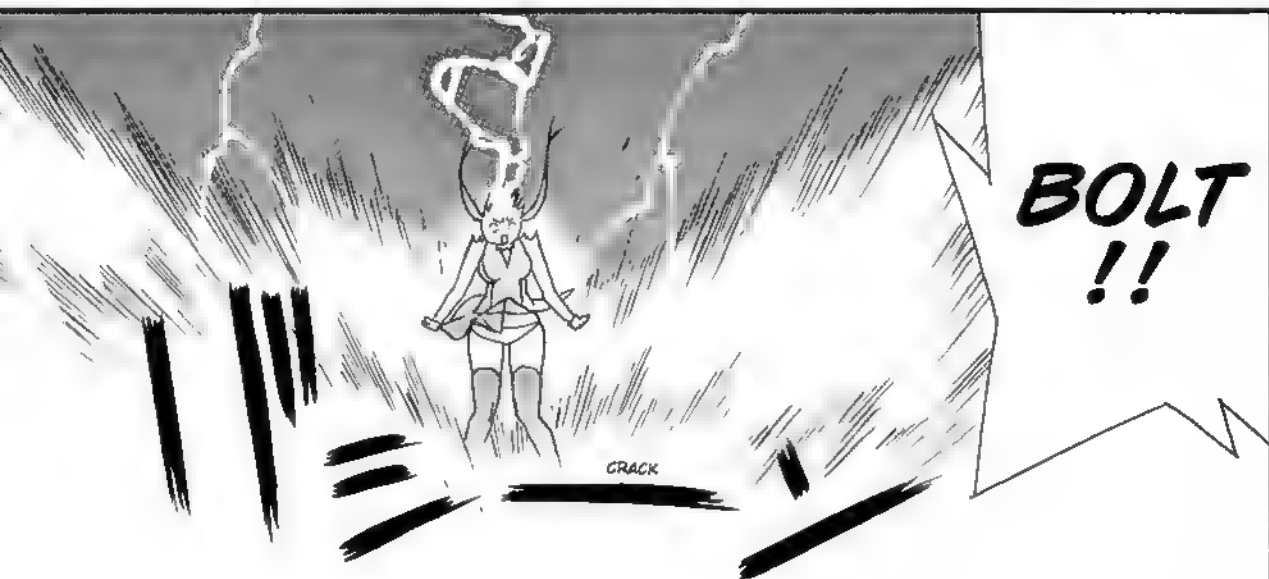
I'LL MAKE SLICED SEKIREI OF YOU TWO.

WOULD
YOU LIKE
A FATE
WORSE
THAN
DEATH?

YOU
SWEET
SUMMER
CHILD.

SOME-
THING...
WORSE...? ...
WORSE
THAN
DEATH?

...
WORSE
THAN
DEATH?







TO GO TO
BED HUNGRY...
TO HAVE SUCH
A CRUDE
ASHIKABI...

PITIALE...
SO PITIALE

...

IT BREAKS
MY HEART.

SO SAD
THAT I...
CANNOT
HELP BUT
WEEP.



I'LL
CLEAVE
YOUR
PITIALE
LIVES
RIGHT IN
TWO!

♡

THAT'LL PUT
AN END TO
ALL YOUR
SUFFERING,
WON'T IT?



.....
WHY, I
OUGHTA
—

WITHOUT
FAIL, THEY
ALL KNOW
HOW TO
PISS ME
OFF...!

THAT
MIKO-
GAMI'S
SEKIREI!

...



WATCH
OUT.
SHE'S
GOT A
SPECIAL
WEAPON.



SO
PITIALE
...!



**HERE I
COME.**



TCH.

**SO
FUN!**
♡

AHH!
♡



LET
US PLAY
TOO!
♡

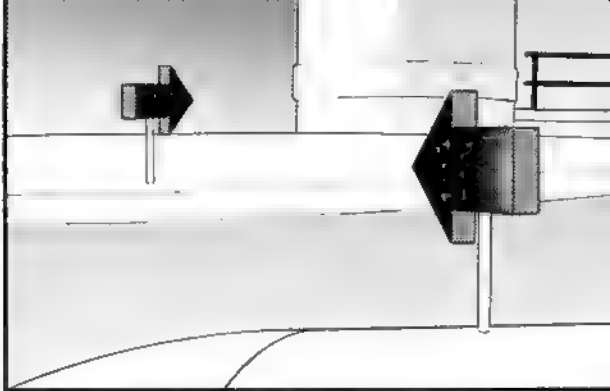
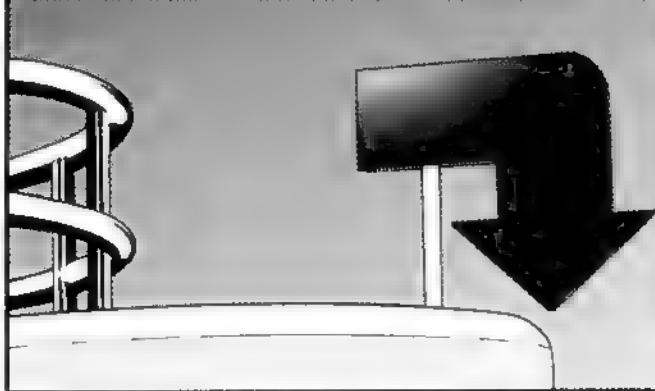
KMAHH! ♡



...HIS
SEKIREI...
ARE ALSO
WEIRDOS.

.....GUESS
WHEN THE
ASHIKABI'S A
WEIRDO...







BOLT!!

WOOOW.
SO
STRONG!

LET'S KEEP
PLAYING!
♥



Chapter 78:
First Round, Decided



Chapter 78:
First Round, Decided







I'M
GETTING
TIRED.

WE'RE
NOT
PLAYING
AROUND
HERE!







GRIND

THE
FOOLISH
WILL
ALSO BE
CLEAVED
IN TWO!

PITIABLE...
SO PITI-
ABLE...
A FOOLISH
ASHIKABI
MEANS
FOOLISH
SEKIREI...!



SOUNDS
FUN!
♡



CLEAVED
IN...?





...
PANTIES!
♡

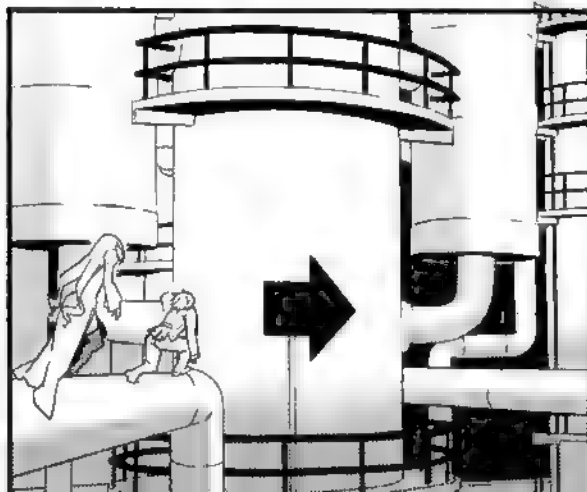
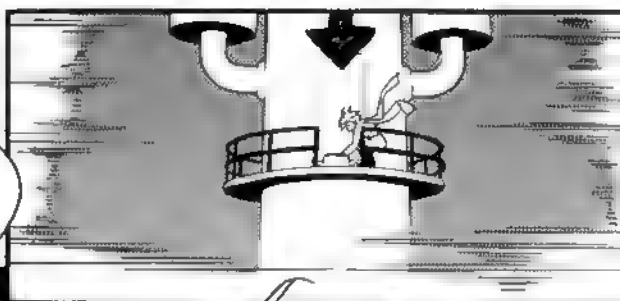
WHITE
...

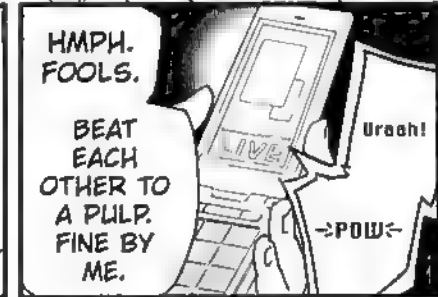
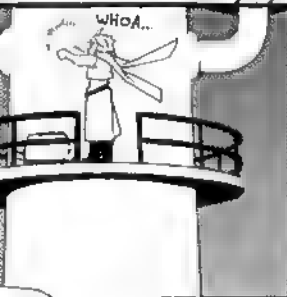


EVEN
MIKOGAMI-
SAMA HAS
NEVER SEEN
THOSE...!

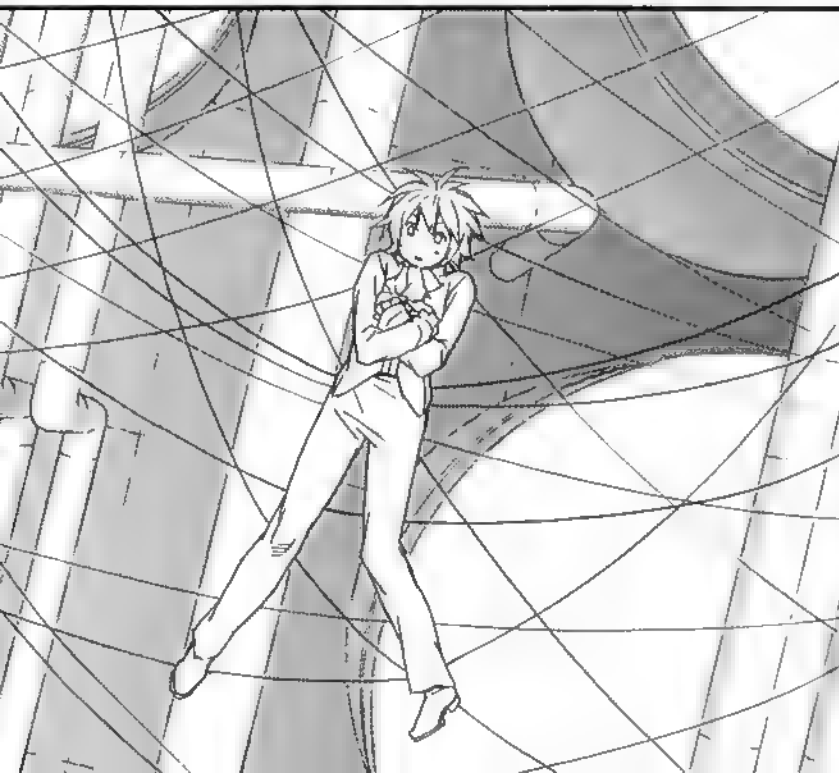
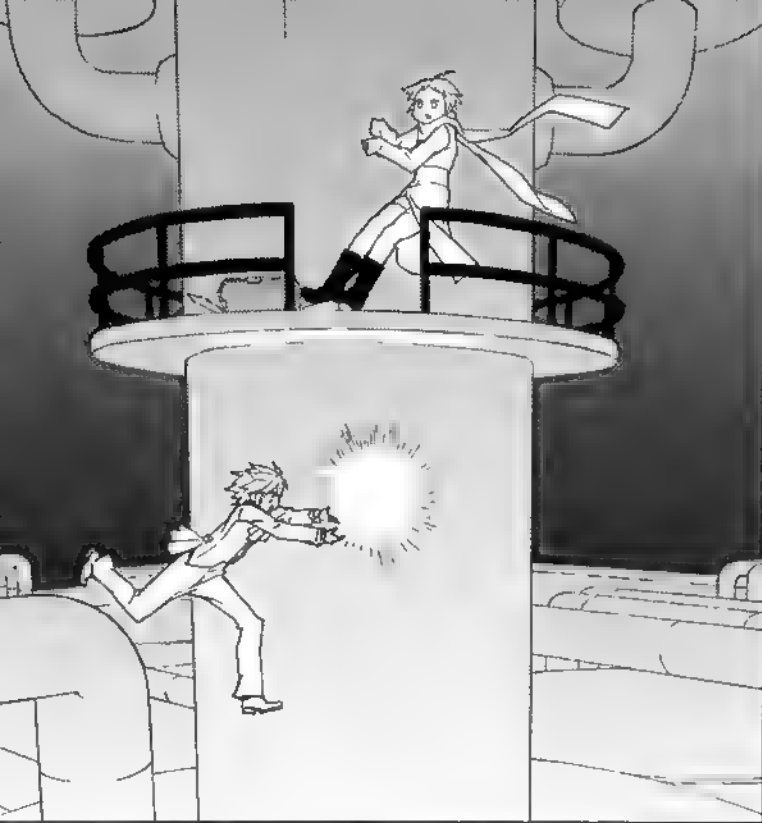


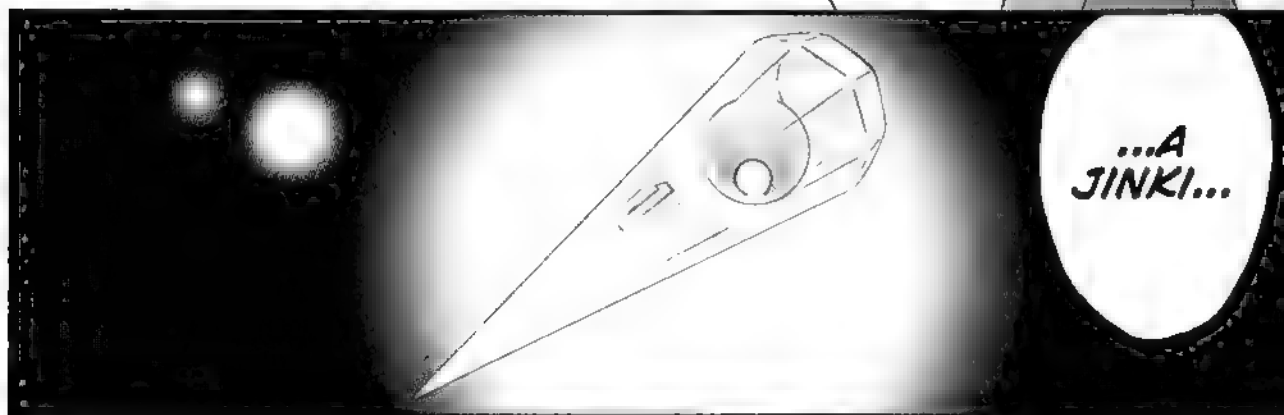
KYAAAAH!













**It's all
over!!**



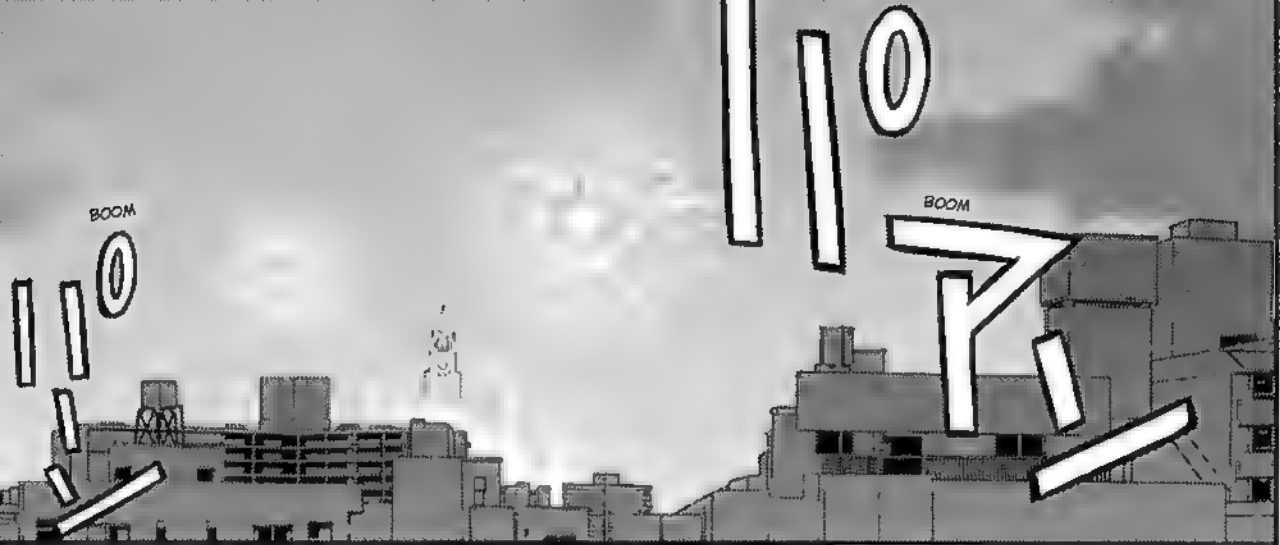
THUD
THUD
THUD

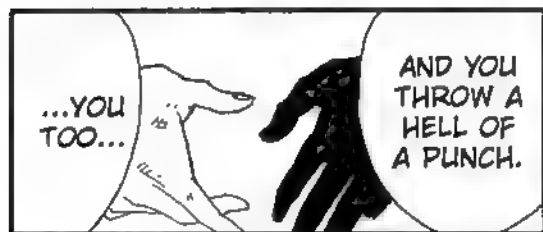


**The
winner
of the
first
round
...**

**...is
Hayato
Miko-
gami!!**











...the
second
round,
shall
we?

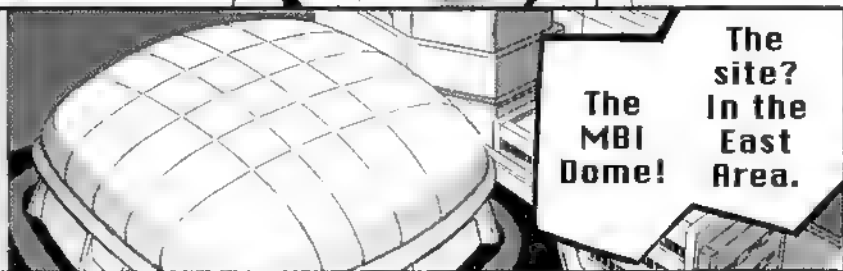
Let's
start...

Moving
on...



THE
SECOND...

...ROUND
.....?



The
site?
In the
East
Area.

The
MBI
Dome!



H-HE
DECIDES
THE RULES
ON A WHIM
...?

HUH!?

And because
this first round
was so exciting,
let's have the
same rules!

The
second
round
is also
a race
to the
prize!!

**Chapter 79:
Memories of Yore**





AH...

WHERE'S
YOUR
PHONE!?



SAHA-
SHI!



SILENT
v-h...



MUSHU-
BI...

IS THAT
REALLY
SOMETHING
WORTH
CELEBRAT-
ING...?

WOW! ♡
THAT'S
AMAZING!

L-LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
SITTING THIS
ONE OUT
TOO.

W-WELL,
I ALWAYS WAS
UNLUCKY WHEN
IT CAME TO
LOTTERIES...
HA-HA.



...YOU'RE
A SEED
COMPETITOR,
MINA-TAN.

IT'S
LIKELY...



UP WE GO.

THAT'S NOT IT.

IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO THINK THAT THE MATCHUPS ARE DETERMINED BY RELATIVE NUMBER OF VICTORIES, BUT...



IS IT BECAUSE MUSUBI DEFEATED TWO OP-
PONENTS?

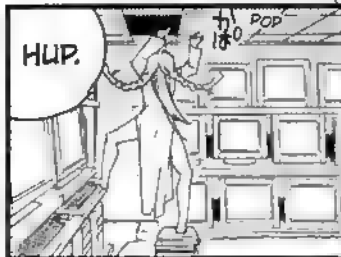
SEED?

WH-
WHY?

IS
THAT
WHY?



?



HUP.



AAAH,
HERE
IT IS.

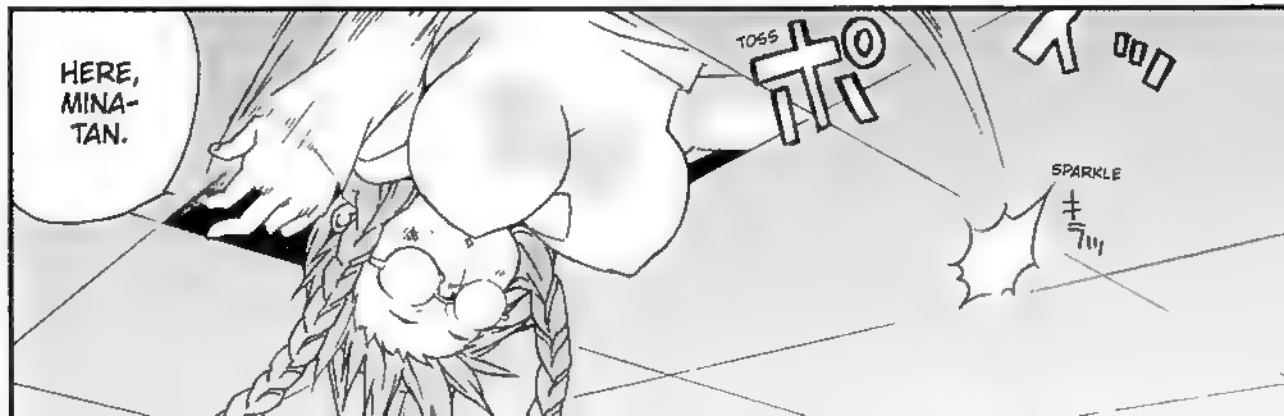
I'VE BEEN
STORING IT
UP HERE FOR
SO LONG, IT'S
COVERED IN
DUST...



COUGH
COUGH

M-
MATSU-
SAN?

WHAT'RE
YOU...?



HERE,
MINA-
TAN.

TOSS
TO

SPARKLE

SPARKLE





AND
ONE OF
THOSE
EIGHT...

...IS NOW
SITTING
IN YOUR
HANDS,
MINA-TAN.



...WELL?

SHOCK
UHM...
WELL,
YOU
SEE...

HOW'D
YOU COME
TO HAVE ONE
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?



...THAT
JINKI...
IN FACT.

...THE
REASON
MATSU FLED
FROM MBI IN
THE FIRST
PLACE
WAS...

DON'T
SAY IT
LIKE
THAAAT!

NOOO,
HOMURA-
TAAAN!

NOT JUST
A HACKER,
BUT ALSO
A COMMON
THIEF...

...SO YOU
STOLE IT,
THEN?

...IT'S THAT
IMPORTANT.

AND
THAT'S WHY
MATSU CAME
"HERE" AFTER
STEALING IT.

ANYWAY,
THAT'S WHY
THEY'RE
STILL AFTER
MATSU.

THAT
LOOKS
LIKE
SOME-
THING
REALLY
SPECIAL!!

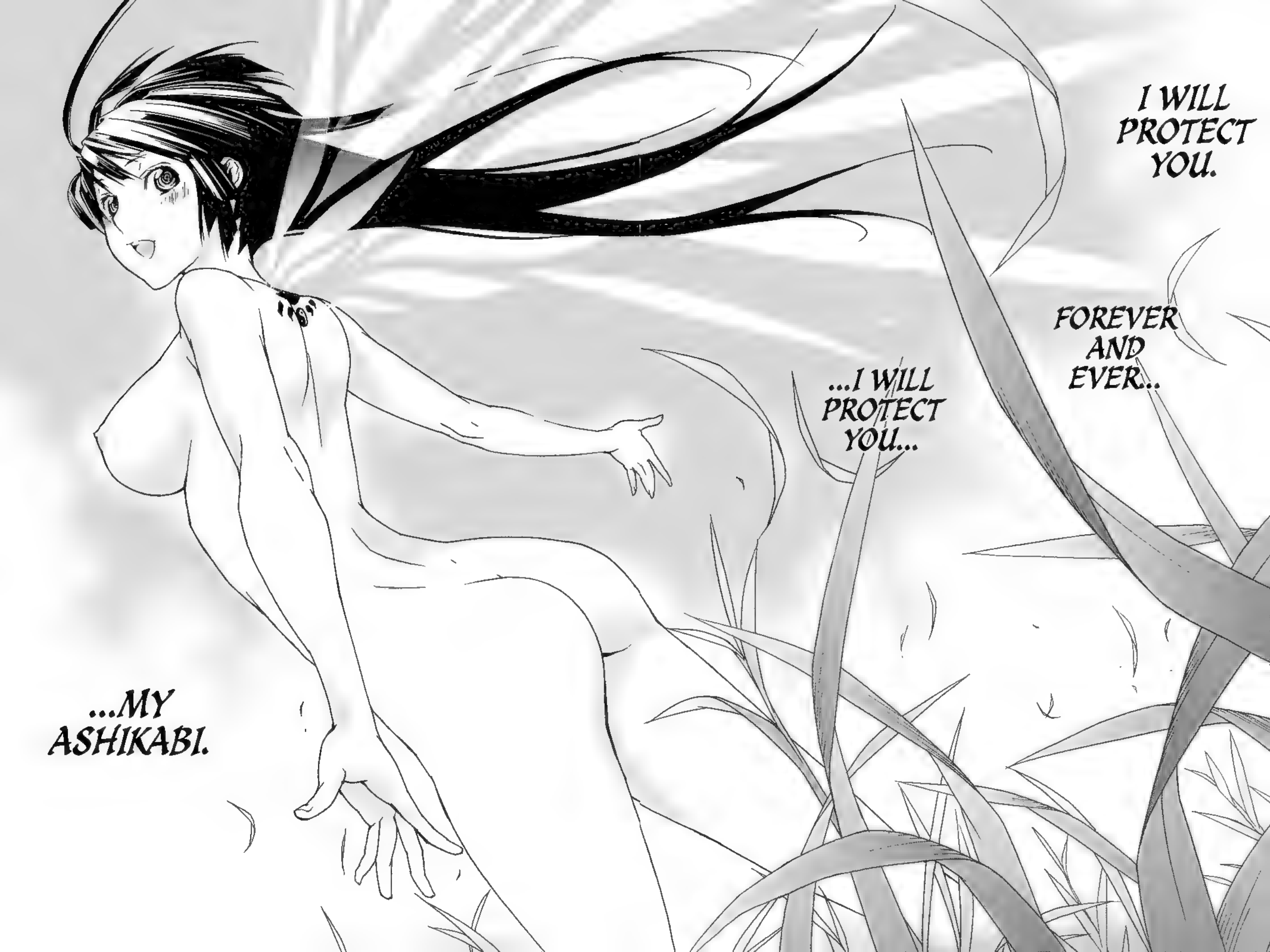
MINATO-
SAN,
MINATO-
SAN.
♡

!?

...WAIT,
YOU
MEAN...

MINATO...
SAN?

...TECT...



**I WILL
PROTECT
YOU.**

**FOREVER
AND
EVER..**

**...I WILL
PROTECT
YOU...**

**...MY
ASHIKABI.**



**I WILL
PROTECT
YOU.**

**FOREVER
AND
EVER..**

**...I WILL
PROTECT
YOU...**



**...MY
ASHIKABI.**





WHAT
WAS
THAT, A
MINUTE
AGO?

...
HMM.

...AH.



IT'S
LOVE.



LIKE ABOUT
ASHIKABI IN
GENERAL...

THERE'S
SO MUCH I
FORGOT TO
ASK MATSU-
SAN.



!?



WHAT YOU
SAW WAS
AN ANCIENT
MEMORY,
CARVED INTO
YOUR VERY
GENES.

AN
ASHIKABI'S
POWER
COMES FROM
ANCIENT
TIMES.

IT'S
TRACES
OF LOVE
FROM
LONG
AGO.



AN ASHIKABI
IS ONE WHO
RECEIVES
LOVE FROM
SEKIREI...



...WHO
GUIDES US
WITH THAT
LOVE...

...AND
ONE...



WALK THE
PATH YOU
BELIEVE IN
...

GO
FORWARD
WITHOUT
FEAR.



...
BECAUSE
I WILL...

...
BECAUSE
MUSUBI
WILL...

...
PROTECT
YOU!



AH.



MU-
MUSUBI...
CHAN?



...SAY
SOMETHING
...??

HUH...?

JUST
NOW...DID
MUSUBI...



...BUT
NOW...

SAYING
HOW
YOU'LL
PROTECT
ME.

I GUESS
THAT WAS
JUST YOU
BEING YOU,
MUSUBI.

NAH...

HM?

NUM-
BER...

...OB...?

JUST
LIKE
BACK
DURING
THE
ESCAPE
PLAN...



...IT'S
ALSO MY
TURN.

...MY TURN
TO PROTECT
EVERYONE.



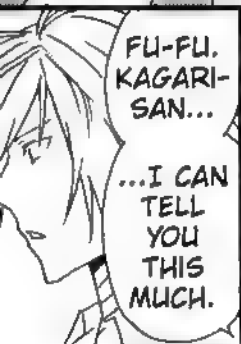
HEY,
MATSU.

WHAT
IS THIS,
EXACTLY?

I'D
ALSO LOVE
TO KNOW,
ACTUALLY.

WHAT
CAN IT
DO?

YOU
GOTTA
TELL
US.



FU-FU.
KAGARI-
SAN...

...I CAN
TELL
YOU
THIS
MUCH.



NO,
NO, I'M A
PACIFIST...!

BUT
TELLING
YOU WOULD
BE REALLY,
REALLY
BAD!

YOU
WANNA
TURN
THOSE
BRAIDS
INTO AN
AFRO
AGAIN?



I...

I CAN'T
SAY...



BUT
NOW...IT'S
TIME YOU
KNEW.

YES, IT
WAS ME
WHO WAS
KEEPING
HER
QUIET.



JINKI.



**WHEN ALL
EIGHT ARE
ASSEMBLED...**

**...THEY HAVE
THE ABILITY
TO PUT AN
END TO ALL
SEKIREI.**



Chapter 80: Second Round





JINKI.

...THEY HAVE
THE ABILITY TO
PUT AN END TO
ALL SEKIREI.

WHEN ALL
EIGHT ARE
ASSEMBLED
...



THAT'S
SO VERY
LIKE THEM,
ISN'T IT?

YOU
GIRLS
AREN'T
NERVOUS
AT ALL,
HUH...

EVEN
WITH THE
SECOND
ROUND
GOING ON
AS WE
SPEAK.

U-FU-
FU.



THAT'S
ALL I CAN
TELL YOU
ABOUT THEM
FOR NOW.



FOR THAT
REASON ALONE,
THE JINKI ARE
INCREDIBLY
DANGEROUS.



OHH!

IN THAT
CASE—



HMM?
ARE YOU
UNABLE TO
USE CHOP-
STICKS,
HOMURA?

N-NO.

MY HANDS
ARE JUST
A LITTLE
BURNED.



PEEPING
IN ON
ELECTRON-
ICS...

RIGHT,
YOUR
ABILITY,
MATSU-
SAN.

HOW RUDE,
MINA-TAN.

MATSU'S
USING HER
ABILITY,
NOT JUST
SPACING
OUT.

MATSU-
SAN...?

ARE YOU
MUMBLING TO
YOURSELF
AS YOU
EAT.....?

NOOO,
MINA-TAN!
PLEASE
CALL IT
"CYBERBRAIN
GAZE"....!

DON'T LOOK
AT MATSU
WITH SUCH
JUDGMENTAL
EYES,
MIYA-TAN.

PEEPING
AGAIN
...

THIS IS
ACTUALLY
REALLY
IMPORTANT!

...WERE
YOU,
MATSU-
SAN?

THE
REAL CHAOS
WILL BEGIN
AFTER THIS
ROUND.

...BUT THIS
TIME, THE
CEO WANTS
THE MATCHES
TO BE FAIR...
OR AT LEAST
"NORMAL."

...THE
FIRST ROUND
PARTICIPANTS
WERE CHOSEN
OUT OF A
"LET'S SEE
WHAT HAPPENS!"
ATTITUDE...

AS I WAS
SAYING...

I-I
SEE...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

TO BE BLUNT,
MINA-TAN AND
THOSE GUYS IN
THE SOUTH, WEST,
AND EAST ARE
EXCEPTIONS TO
THE RULE.

BOTTLE: PRIME OF MANHOOD

UHM...
YOU MEAN
HOW...

...IT'S
USUALLY
JUST ONE-
ON-ONE?

IT WILL
THIN THE
RANKS...

BUT THESE
SINGLE-SEKIREI
TEAMS WILL TAKE
ONE ANOTHER
OUT IN THE
SECOND ROUND.



MATSU
FEELS AS
THOUGH SHE
FORGOT TO
EXPLAIN
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
TO YOU,
MINA-TAN.

THERE
WILL BE
FEWER...
AND
FEWER...

...HMM?



WHAT IS
AN ASHIKABI,
REALLY?

THAT'S
RARE...

HMM?

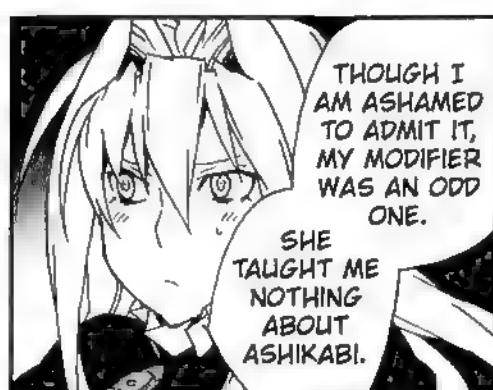
WHAT
IS IT,
TSUKIUMI-
TAN?



AH, OF
COURSE,
MATSU!!



THOUGH I
AM ASHAMED
TO ADMIT IT,
MY MODIFIER
WAS AN ODD
ONE.



SHE
TAUGHT ME
NOTHING
ABOUT
ASHIKABI.

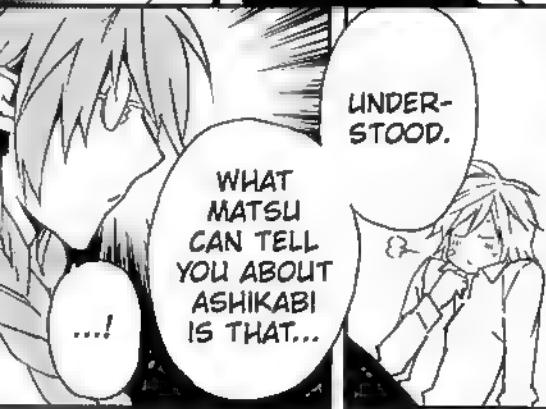
I HAD
SOMETHING
TO ASK YOU,
ACTUALLY.



NOW
I HAVE
MINATO.

I USED TO
WANT NOTHING
TO DO WITH THESE
MATTERS BEYOND
FIGHTING AND
WINNING.

...BUT
NOW...







Is—!

The
second
round
—!



The
winner—
Kouji
Takano!!

And his
Sekirei,
No. 73—
Namiji!!

DON'T
KNOW
THEM...



Over
...!!



W
H
A
A
T
!?

Moving
right along
to round
three...

Let's
make
the next
round
one to
remem-
ber!!

Wait for
my call
concerning
time and
location.

Round
three
will come
another
day!!

PHEW.

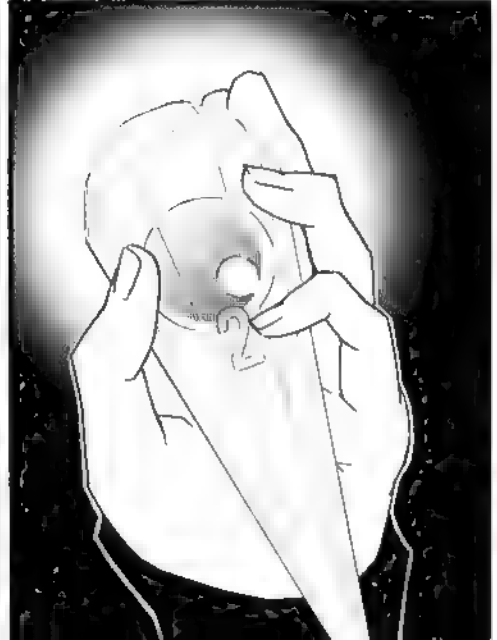
...Just
kidding, of
course.

...my
dear
Ashikabi
!!

I'm
looking
forward
to it...

BZZT
7/11/11









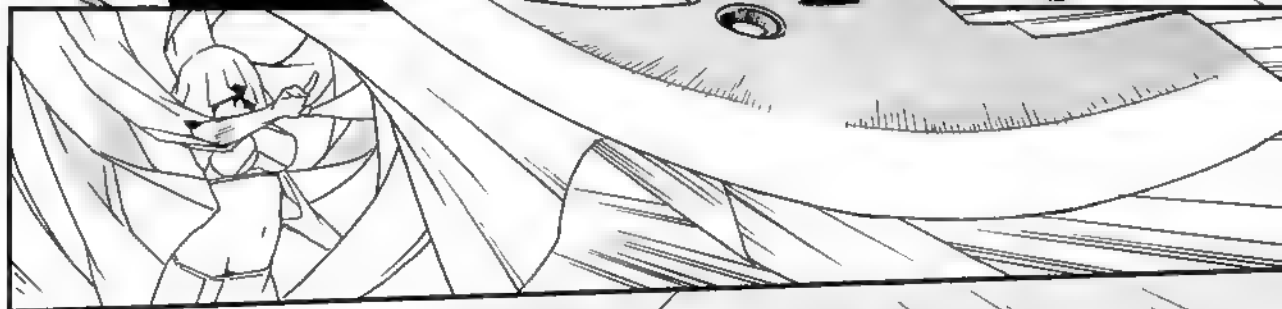
WHO
ARE
YOU!?

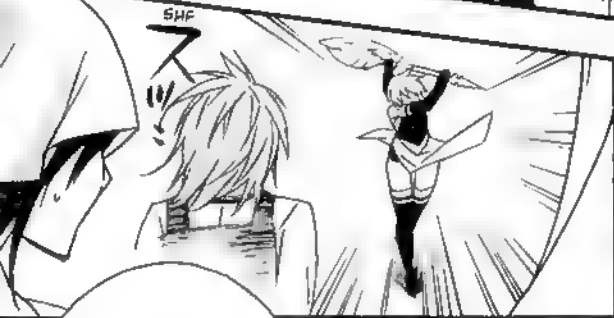
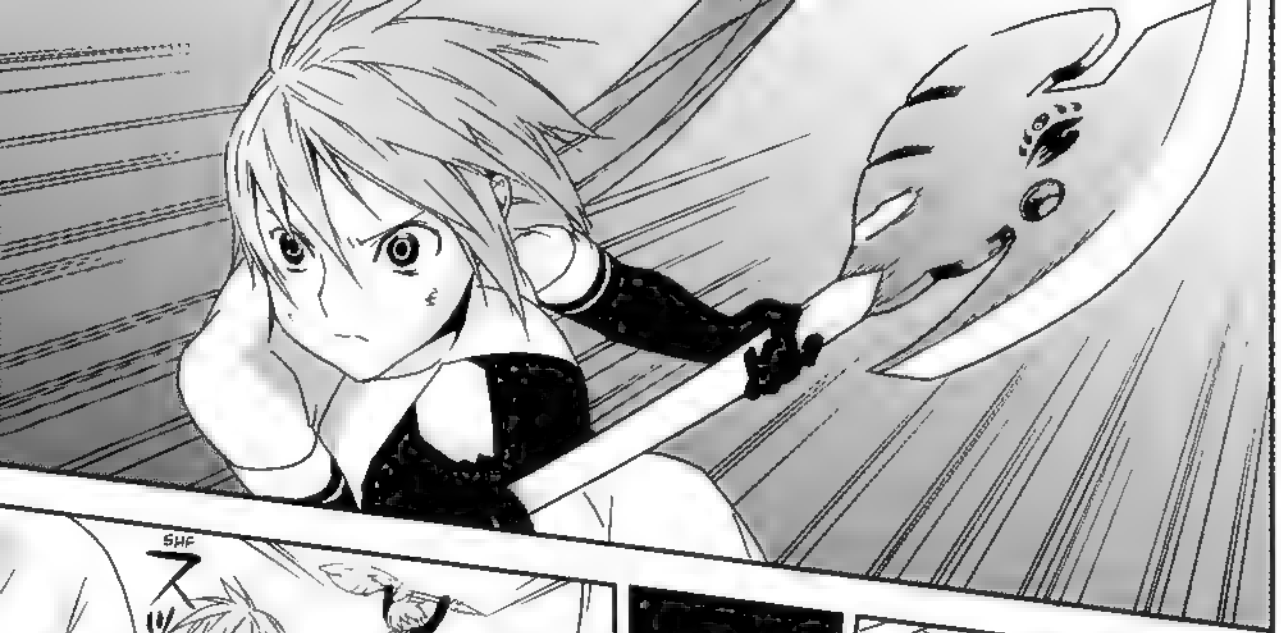


...A HERETIC
WITH A NAME
NOT WORTH
MENTIONING.

THAT
JINKI.

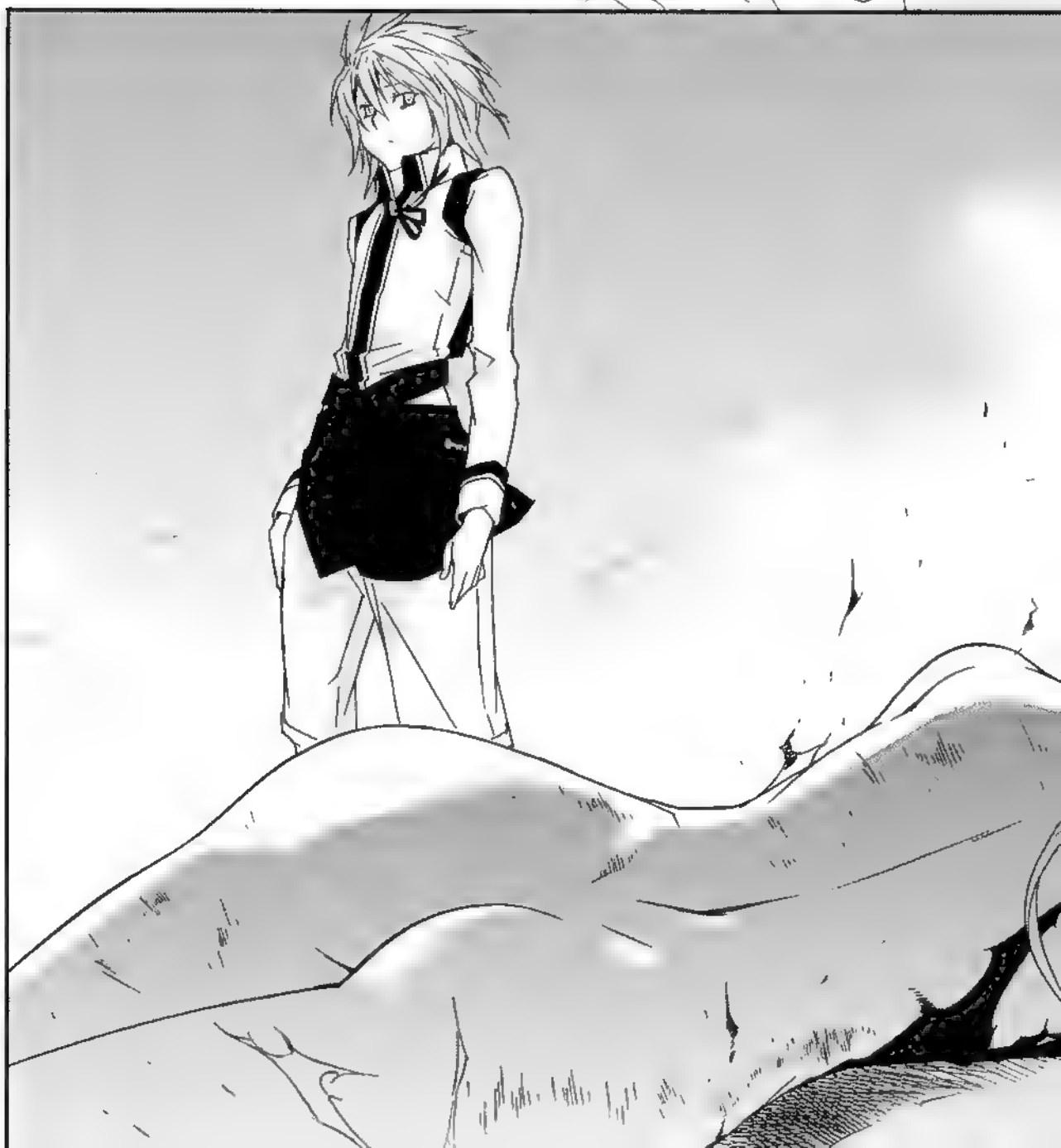
HAND IT
OVER.





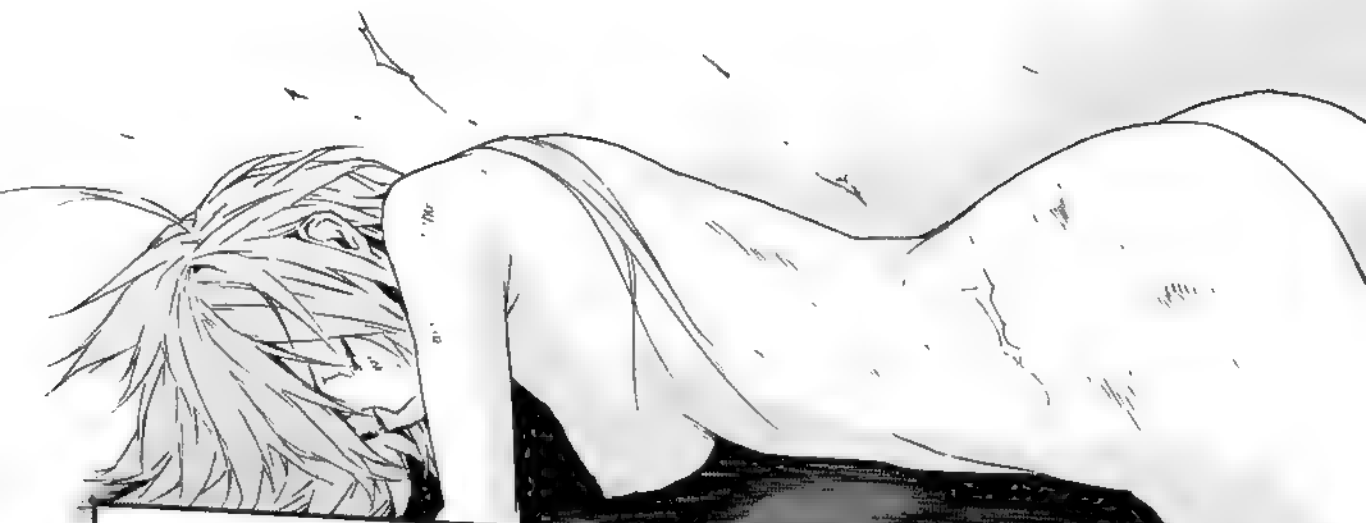
"DEATH
GARDEN."







Chapter 81:
Skies of Conscience and the
Meaning of Happiness



...YOUR
ASHIKABI
IS SAFE...



...FOR
NOW...
THAT IS.





HOWEVER

...

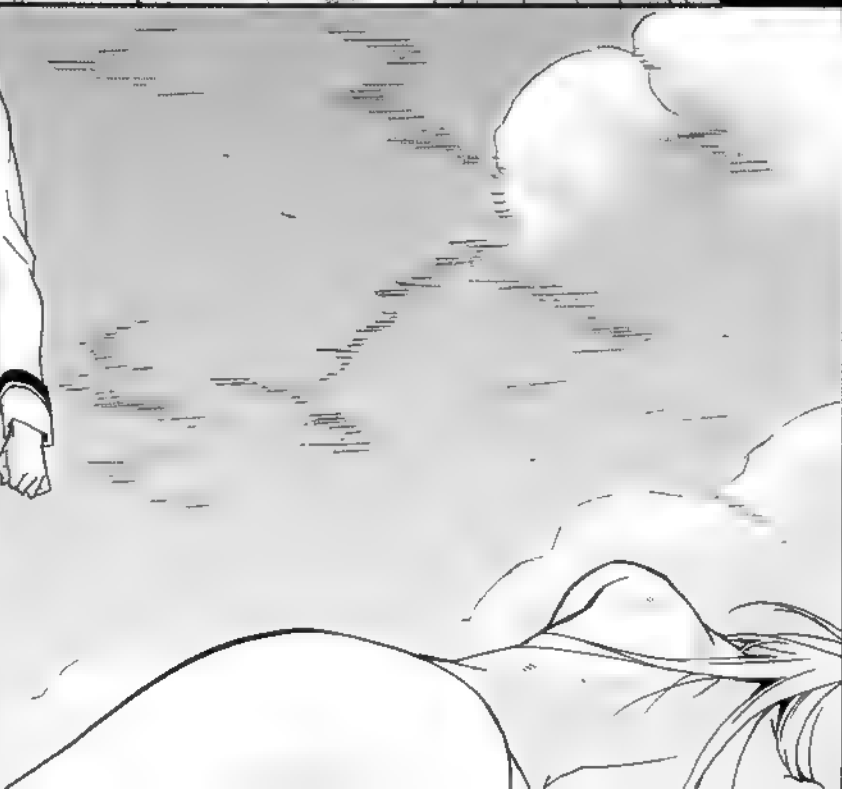
...HER
CONTINUED
SAFETY
DEPENDS
ON YOU.

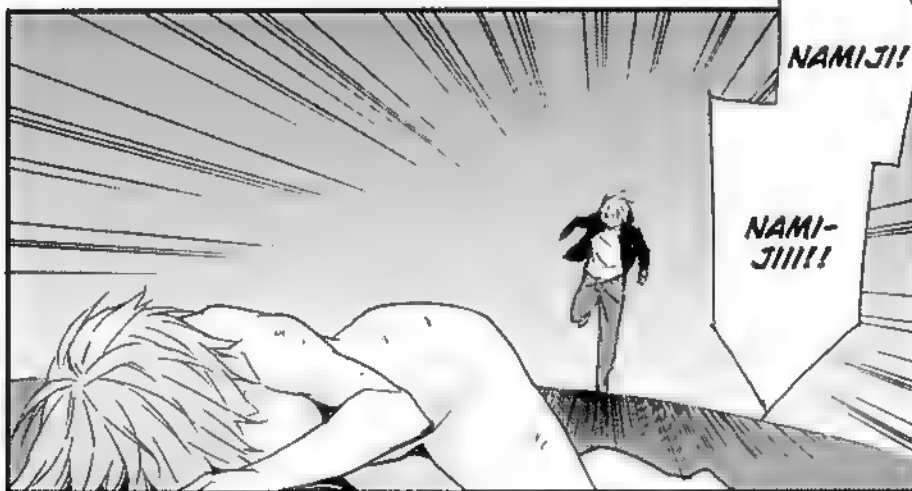
ONCE
YOU'RE DONE,
YOU'LL GET
TO SEE YOUR
ASHIKABI
AGAIN.

JUST A
FEW SIMPLE
ERRANDS.

...THEN YOU'LL
AGREE TO HELP
ME OUT A BIT.

IF YOU
DON'T WANT
HARM TO
COME TO
HER...







N...



NO!!



IF YOU WANT
ONE, FIGHT FAIR
AND SQUARE IN
THE GAMES.

IS HE
HIDING IN THE
SHADOWS,
BEHIND HIS
SEKIREI!!!?

WHERE'S
YOUR
ASHIKABI
!?



NAMIJI
WON THIS
FOR ME...

...SO THAT
WE CAN BE
TOGETHER
FOREVER
...



...'COS,
APPARENTLY,
WE NEED
THIS FOR
THAT...





...
I'M
THE REAL
COWARD
HERE.

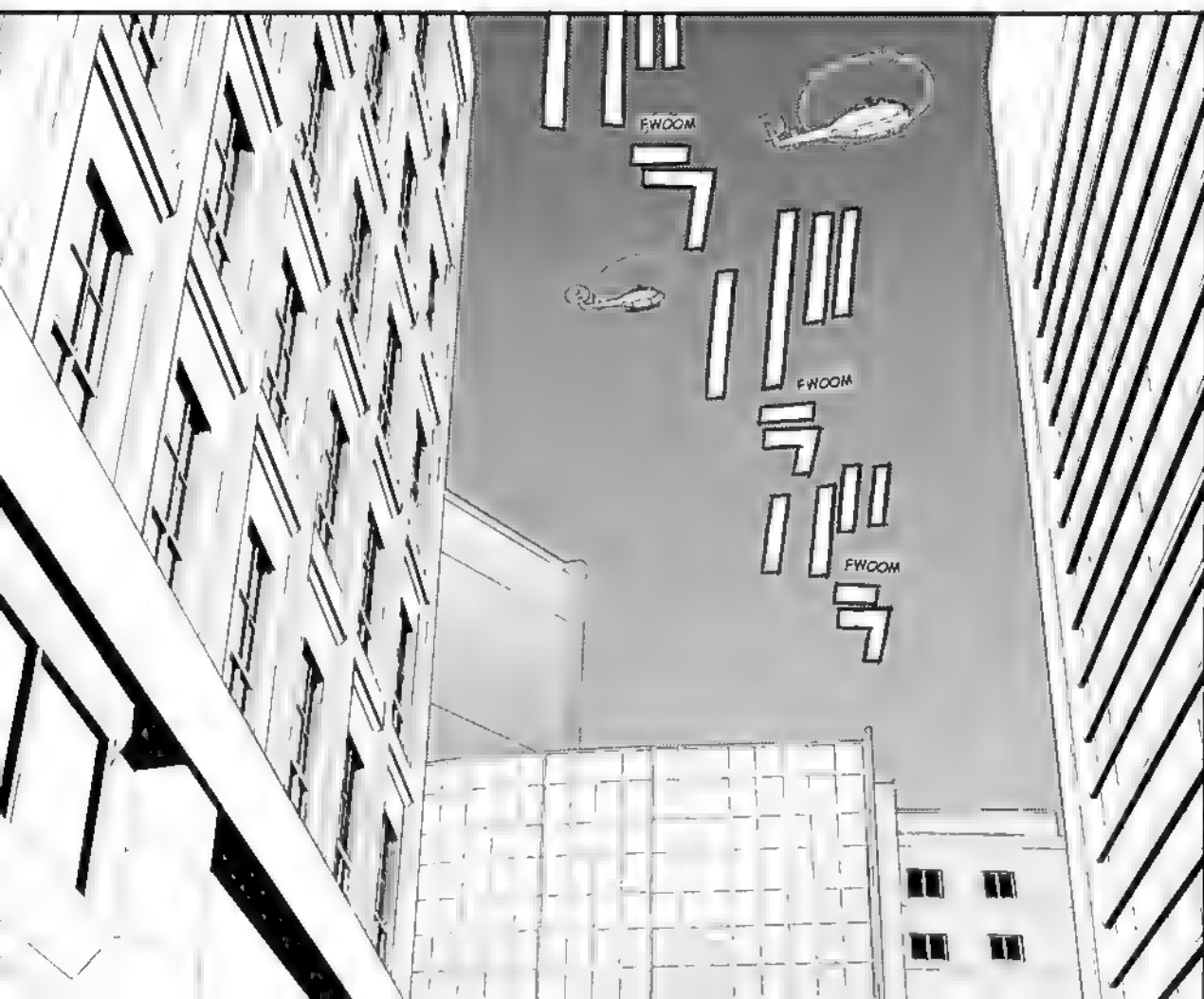


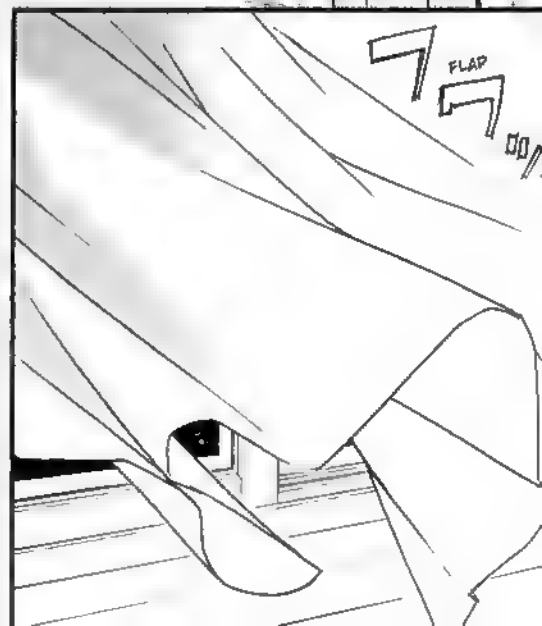
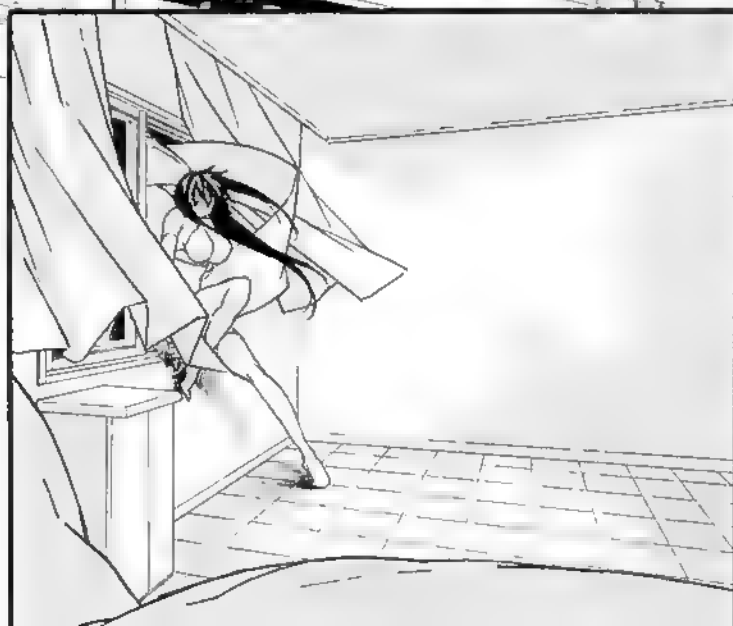
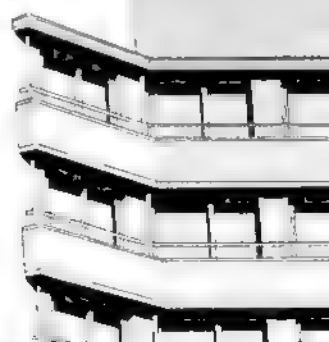
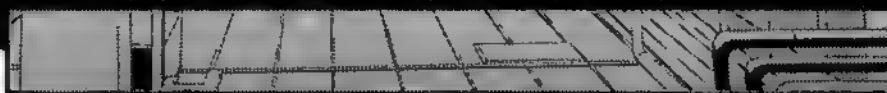
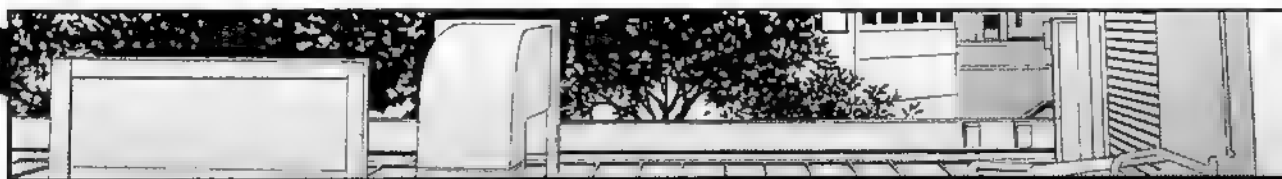
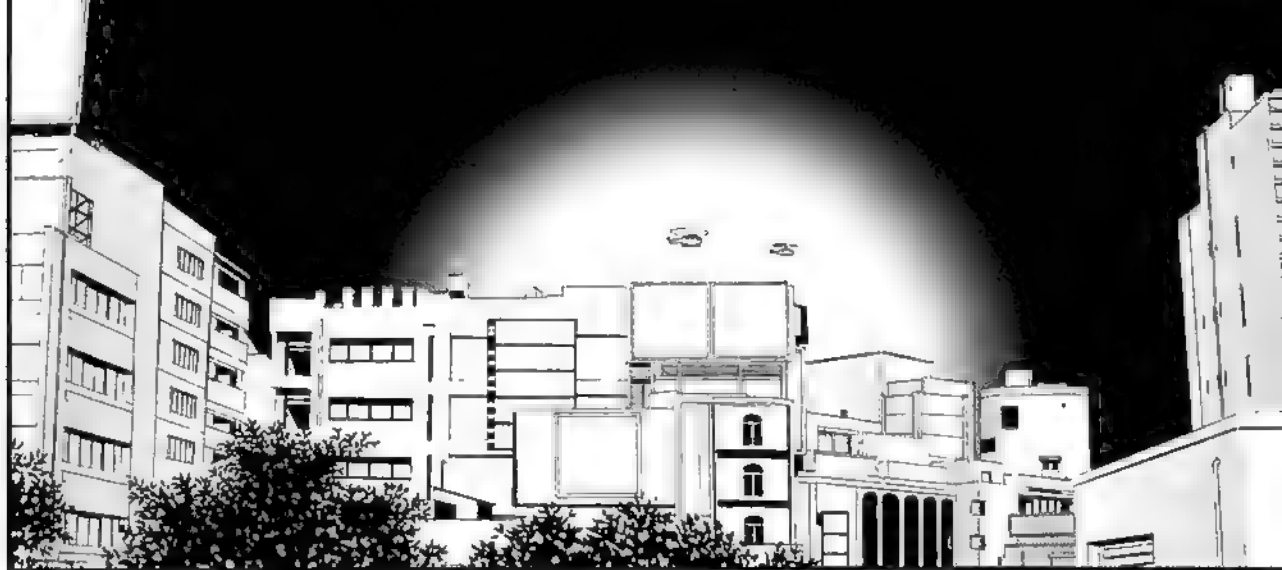
BUT...

...MY
ASHIKABI
ISN'T...!!











CHIHO
.....



...UZUME-
CHAN.

...PAT



ARE YOU...
CRYING
AGAIN...?

WHAT'S
WRONG...?



I'M YOUR
ASHIKABI,
AFTER
ALL.

I CAN,
YOU
KNOW.



I CAN
TELL.

SORRY
TO WAKE
YOU—

HA
HA.

WHO? ME?
NAH. NOT
CRYING!



BUT YOU
ALWAYS
SHOW UP
WITH A
SMILE
FOR ME.

IT'S THE
SAME WHEN
YOU FEEL LIKE
CRYING YOUR
EYES OUT.

WHEN
YOU'RE SAD,
I FEEL SAD
TOO.

WHEN
YOU'RE HAPPY,
LIZUME-CHAN,
MY HEART
DANCES.

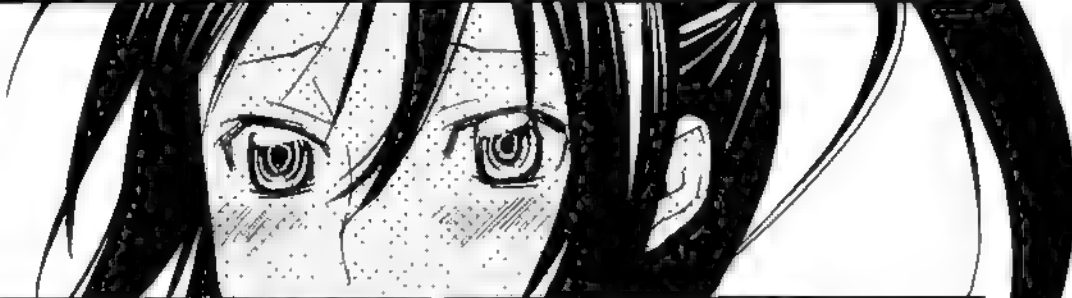


I CAN TELL
EVERYTHING
THAT'S GOING
ON WITH YOU...
BECAUSE...

...I LOVE
YOU,
LIZUME-
CHAN.



...YES.



HOW'D
I FIND AN
ASHIKABI
LIKE YOU?

I'M
ONE
LUCKY
GIRL.

HEE
HEE.

I'LL
STEAL A
KISS IN
SECRET
NEXT
TIME.



I'M SO
GLAD...

...I LOVE
YOU TOO,
CHIHO.

GLAD TO
BE YOUR
SEKIREI...



LI-
UZUME-
CHAN...

HOW
'BOUT A
KISS?

PLANT
ONE ON
ME!

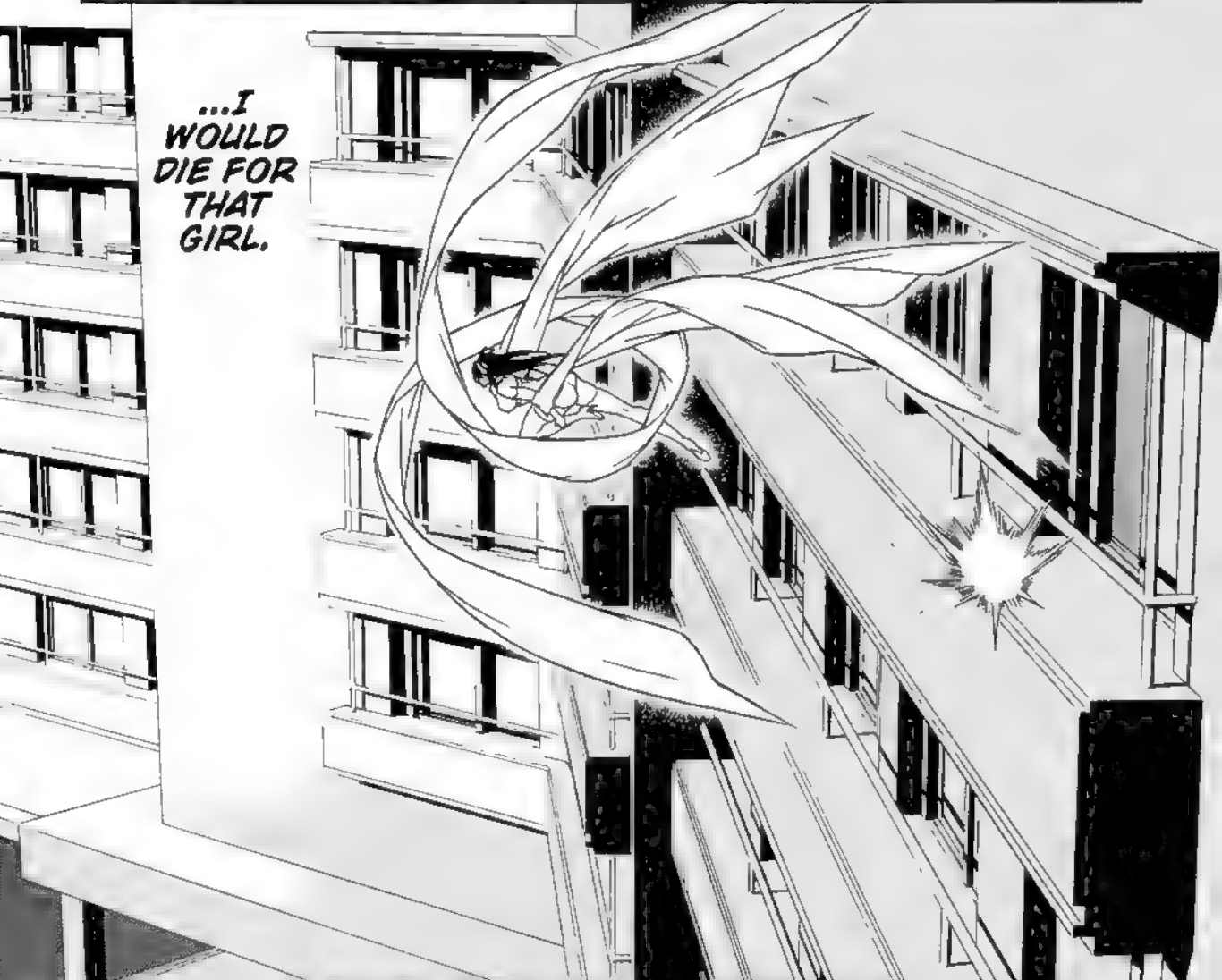


SEE
YA.



LIZUME-
CHAN...

...ARE YOU
INVOLVED IN
SOMETHING
DANGEROUS
...?



...I
WOULD
DIE FOR
THAT
GIRL.



...I
SWEAR
IT...!!

I'D DO
ANYTHING
FOR
CHIHO'S
SAKE.



LIZUME...

...
CHAN...?

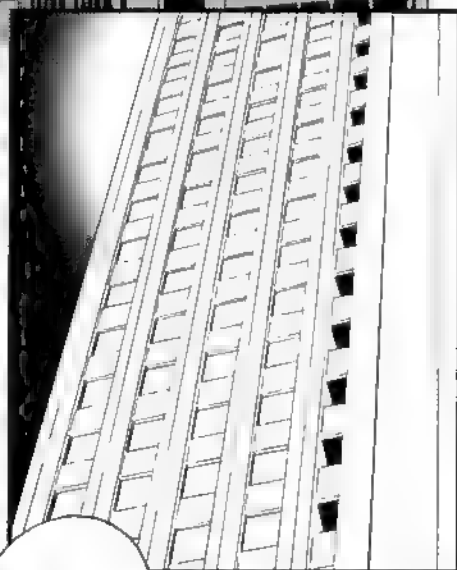


HIGA-
SAMA.

THE
JINKI.

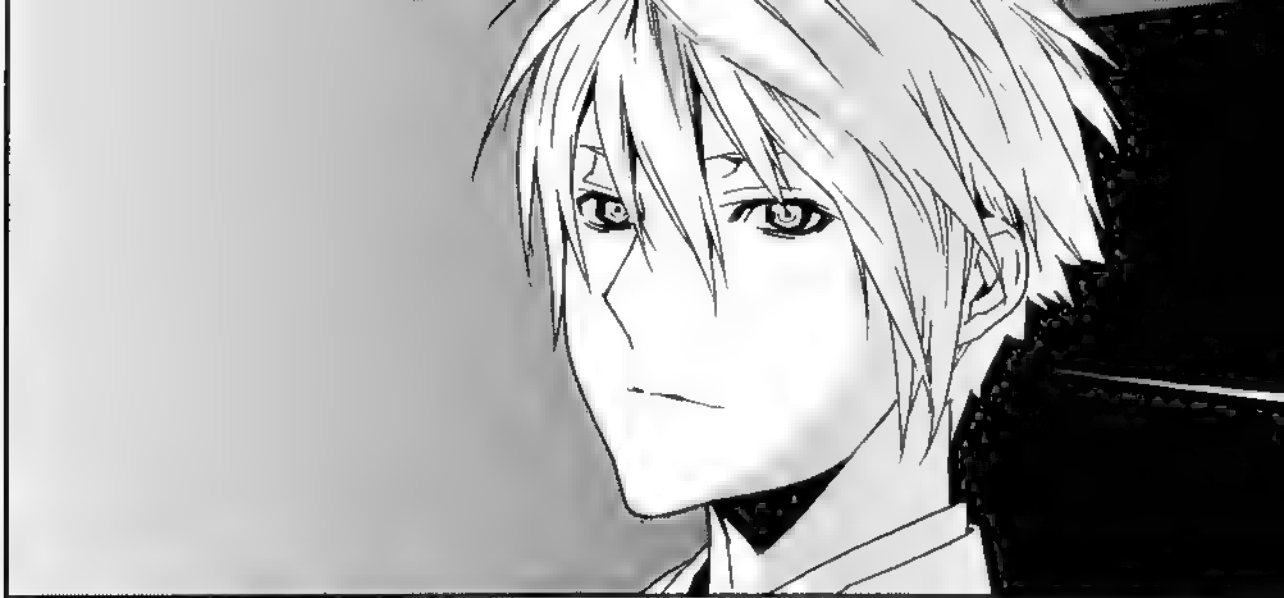


OH?
SO THIS
IS...



WELL
DONE.





AH, RIGHT. I DID PROMISE YOU.



... YUKARI-SAN...



Chapter 82: Thoughts of You, Far Away



BOTTLE: SAKURAKAZE, REFINED SAKE



...NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU CARE
FOR HER.



WHAT
ARE
YOU...

...
SAYING
...?



YOU CAN
NEVER MAKE
HER TRULY
HAPPY...

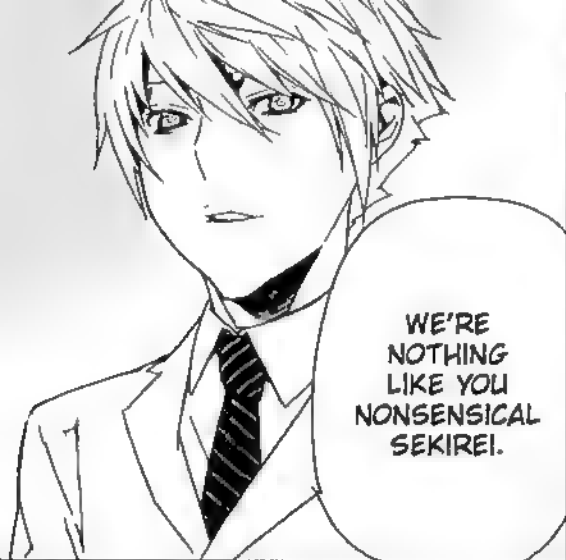


DID I
STUTTER?



...AND
YOU ARE A
SEKIREI.

WE
ASHIKABI
ARE
HUMAN
...

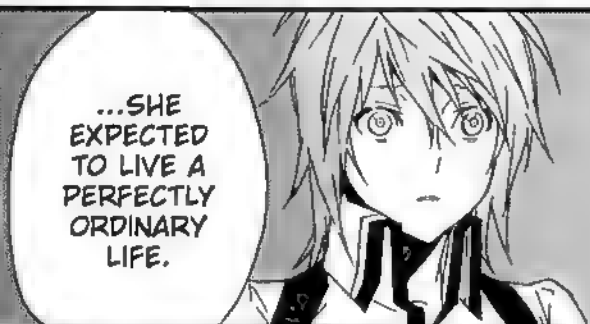


WE'RE
NOTHING
LIKE YOU
NONSENSICAL
SEKIREI.

ASHIKABI
OR NOT, WE
CAN'T ESCAPE
THESE TIES OF
OBLIGATION.

WE EACH HAVE
OUR POSITIONS
AND ROLES TO
PLAY IN OUR
RESPECTIVE
ORGANIZATIONS.

HUMANS
HAVE
SOCIETAL
RESPONSI-
BILITIES.



...SHE
EXPECTED
TO LIVE A
PERFECTLY
ORDINARY
LIFE.

BATTLES
AND DANGER
WEREN'T
ORIGINALLY IN
THE CARDS
FOR HER.

YUKARI SAHASHI
WAS MEANT TO
ATTEND COLLEGE
AND MAKE
FRIENDS HERE
IN TEITO.



JUST WHO
CAME IN
AND RUINED
ALL THAT?



...WHAT
HAPPENS
AFTER-
WARD?

EVEN IF BY
SOME MIRACLE
YOU SURVIVE
THE SEKIREI
PROJECT...



YOU
SEEM
LIKE A
BRIGHT
BOY...

...SO I
ASSUME YOU
SEE WHAT
I'M GETTING
AT.



IN HER
ORDINARY
LIFE...

WHEN THAT
DAY COMES,
DO YOU THINK
THE PEOPLE IN
HER LIFE WILL
ACCEPT YOU?

SHE'S
HUMAN.
THERE'S
A WORLD
SHE'LL
RETURN
TO.



TOYOTAMA!
ICHIYA!

THAT'S
ALL I
HAVE TO
SAY.



GO
AHEAD AND
ESCORT
NO. 107...



...TO
HER.

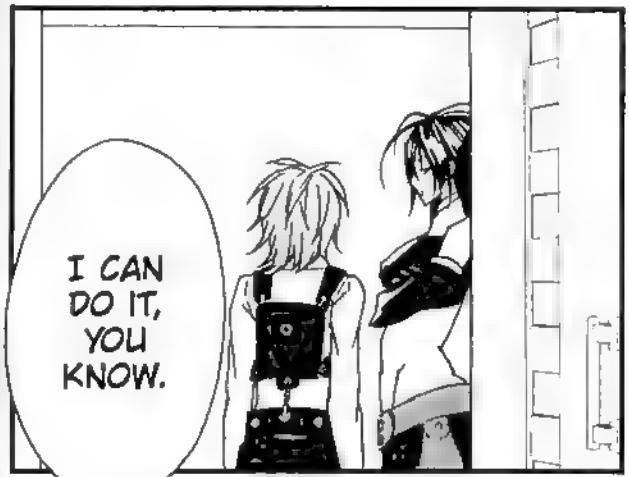


...CAN
YOU GO ON
PROTECTING
HER?



I...

...CAN
MAKE HER
HAPPY.



I CAN
DO IT,
YOU
KNOW.



SHUT
11"ア



PLEASE
DON'T
ADMIT
SUCH A
THING.

ADULTS
HAVE TO
PLAY DIRTY
SOMETIMES.

NO. 107 IS
THE REASON
WHY SHE
DOESN'T BEND
TO MY WILL.

I'M
EXPLOITING
THAT
WEAKNESS.



JUST
LIKE YOU
TO EMPLOY
SUCH CLEVER
SOPHISTRY,
HIGA-SAMA.

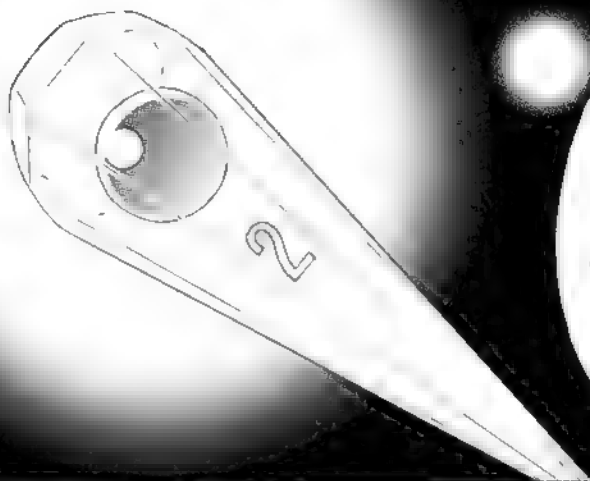
CLAP
110
& CLAP
110
&



DON'T
CALL IT
THAT.

I'VE
ONLY TOLD
HIM THE
TRUTH.

I MERELY
HOPE TO FORCE
MY ROMANTIC
RIVAL TO GIVE
UP SOONER
RATHER THAN
LATER.



AND IN
THESE ADULT
EYES OF MINE,
YUKARI SAHASHI
HOLDS FAR MORE
VALUE THAN
THIS JINKI.









...HE TOLD
ME I HAVE
TO MARRY
HIM.

EVEN
MADE THIS
DRESS
FOR ME.



THE ACCOMMODATIONS
ARE OUTSTANDING!!

WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
GUY!?

EVERY
MEAL IS
A FULL
COURSE
SPREAD.
WHAT'S HE
UP TO?



...
YEAH.

I'M
OKAY.



AND
THAT'S
WHY I'M
GETTING
FAT...GAH!
DON'T
ASK...

THAT
DRESS...?

...
YUKARI-
SAN...



I...

...CAN
MAKE HER
HAPPY.



HUH?

...DO
YOU LIKE
HIM...LIKE
THAT...?



G
U
H
E
H
E
H
!

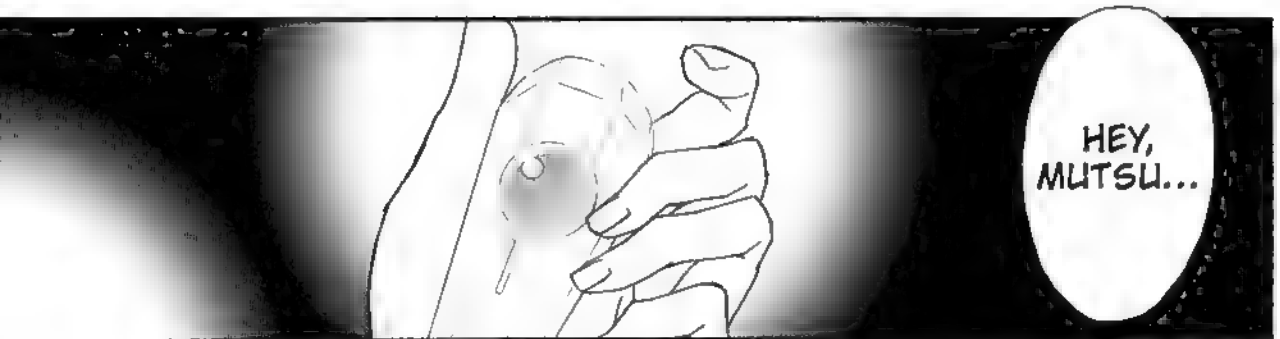
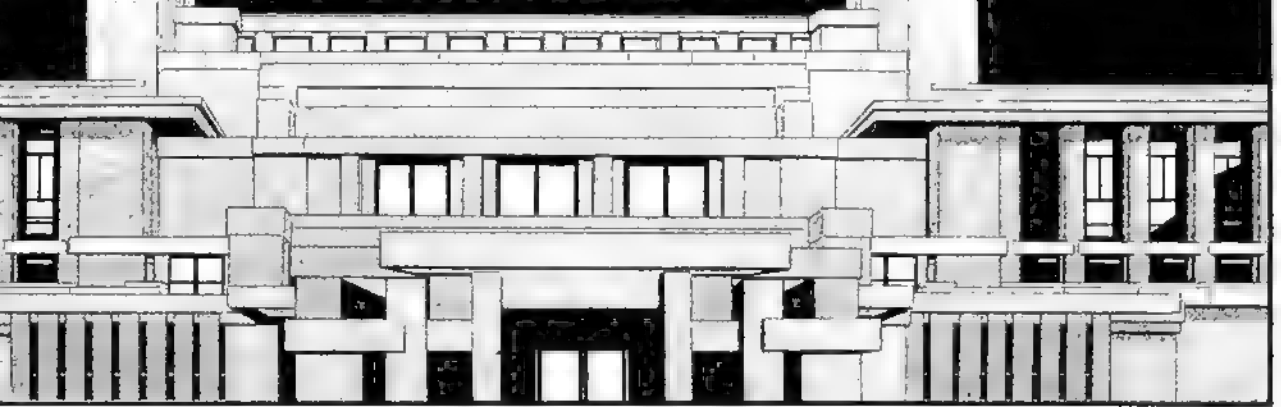
SHIINA'D
LOOK
GREAT IN IT
THOUGH...

...
YUKARI-
SAN...









HEY,
MUTSU...



...YOU MAY
ALREADY BE
TOO LATE
FOR THAT.

WE JUST
GOT A REPORT
THAT THE WINNERS
OF ROUND TWO
WERE ATTACKED—
THEIR JINKI
WAS STOLEN.



SO...
WHAT DO
I DO WITH
THIS?

MBI'S BEING
MEAN AND NOT
TELLING ME
ANYTHING.



GREAT.
NOW HE'S
FIRED UP...

GUESS
I GOTTA
CATCH
'EM ALL!
♡



NO. 02
TOLD ME
THAT, LONG
AGO.

OH
YEAH?

THAT'S
ALL I
KNOW...

WHEN
THEY'RE
BROUGHT
TOGETHER
AND USED
PROPERLY,
SOMETHING
BIG WILL
HAPPEN...



...WHICH
ONLY
LEAVES...



THOUGH
WE'RE NOT
SURE, WE
CAN GUESS
WHO DID IT BY
PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION.

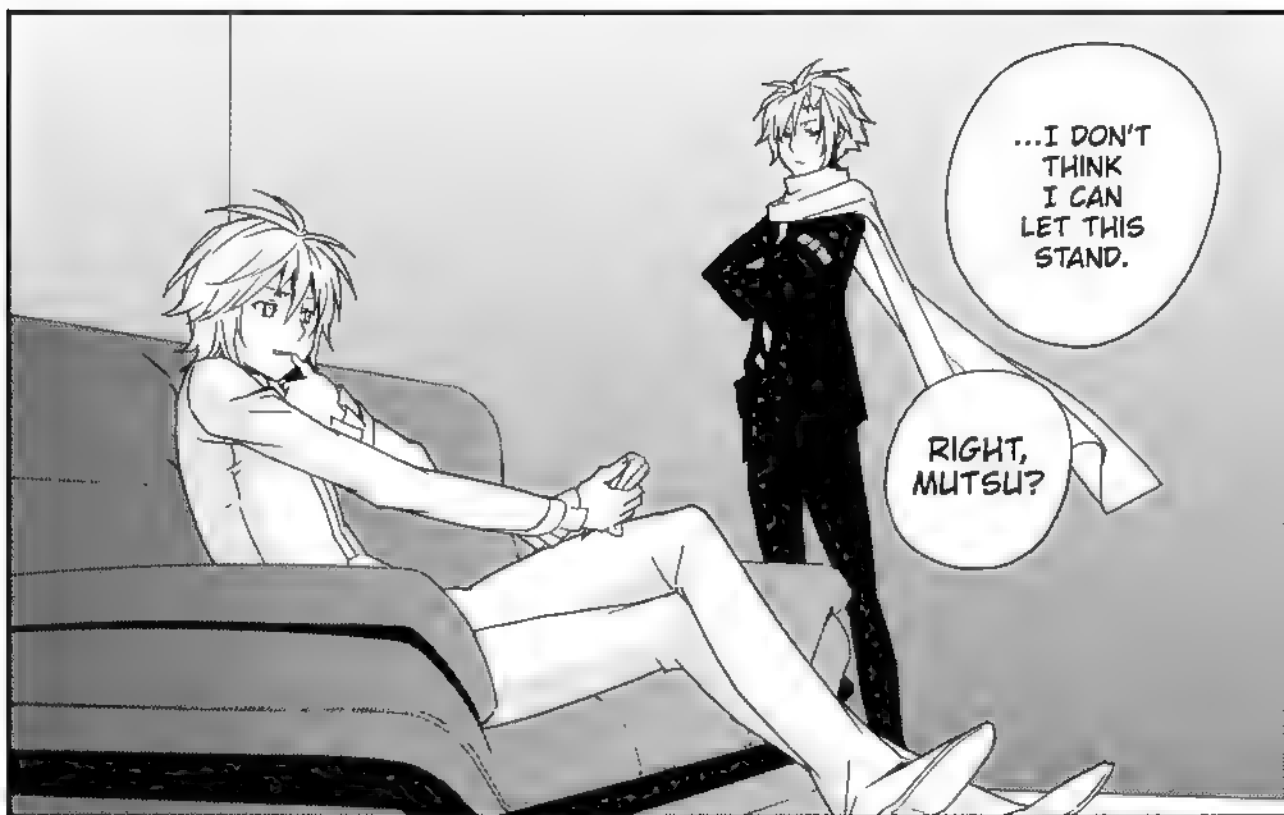
IT COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN THE
WESTERN POWER
FROM THE FIRST
ROUND, AND THE
NORTHERN HANNYA
WOULD NEVER DO
SUCH A THING.

SAY
WHAT!?



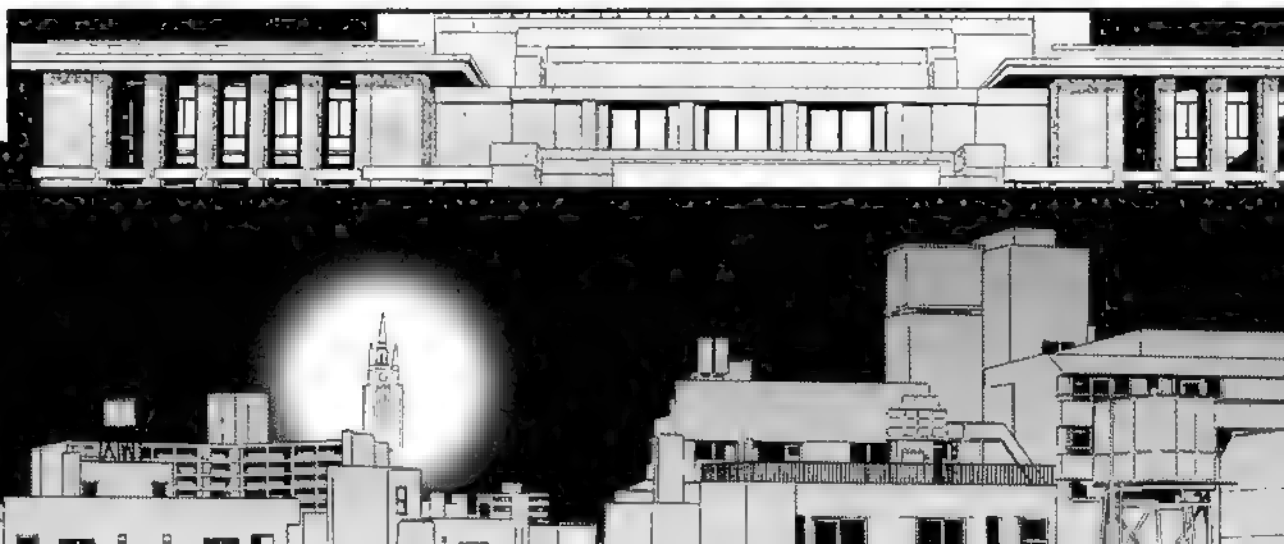
DAMN.
JUST
LIKE
WITH
NO. 06!!

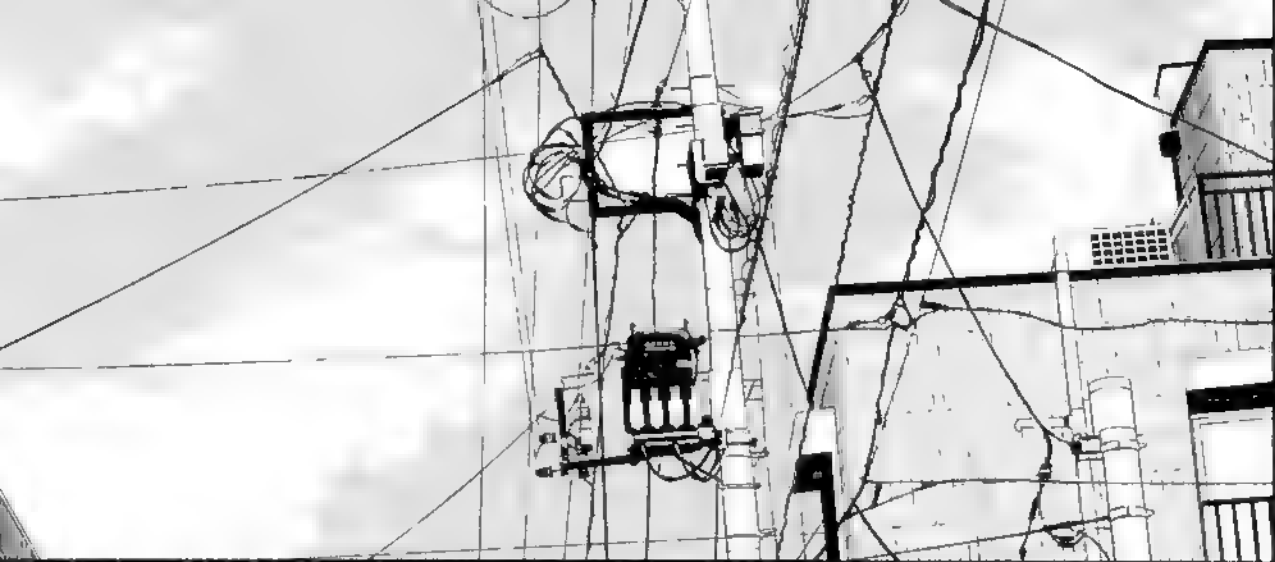
EAST!!



...I DON'T
THINK
I CAN
LET THIS
STAND.

RIGHT,
MUTSU?





ONE WHOLE
WEEK SINCE
ROUND TWO,
AND STILL
NOTHING...

IT'S
KINDA
WEIRD.

...WITH
THE
THIRD
ROUND!
♡

I'M SURE
THE CEO IS
BUSY COMING
UP WITH A
WAY TO PICK
ON US...

OKAY!
♡

RIGHT.
I'LL...
DO MY
BEST
TOO.

I
PROMISE.

IT'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT!

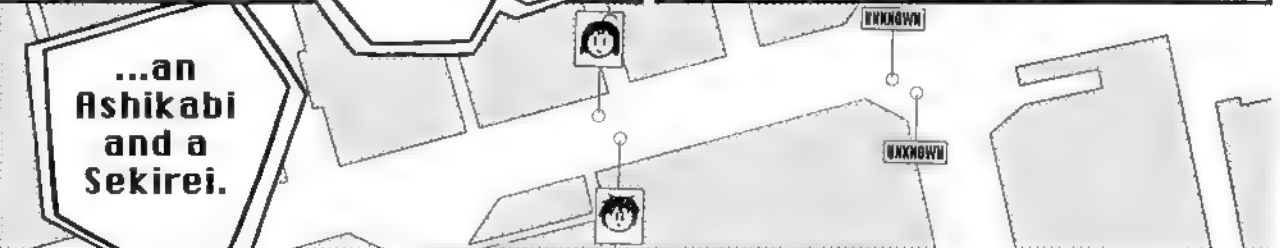
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
THE CEO
BULLIES YOU,
MUSUBI WILL
PROTECT YOU,
MINATO-SAN.
♡

D—
DON'T
SAY SCARY
THINGS
LIKE THAT,
MUSUBI-
CHAN.

**Chapter 83:
The Northern
Ashikabi**











YOU
BROKE
THAT
BRIDGE
AND
HELPED
SHIGI
ESCAPE.

YOU'RE
THE
"NORTHERN
ASHIKABI,"
RIGHT?



...
YOU...

HUH?



...!

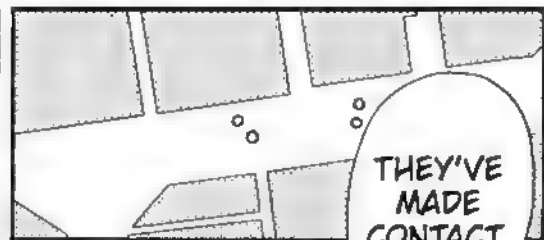


...AND IF
THEY WERE
GOING TO
ATTACK, THEY
WOULD'VE
ALREADY
DONE SO.

LET'S JUST
SIT BACK
AND WATCH
FOR NOW!

THAT'S...
TRUE.

IF WE STIR THE
POT AND CAUSE
TSUKIUMI-TAN TO
MAKE A SCENE,
WE RISK NOT
FINDING OUT WHAT
THEY WANT.



THEY'VE
MADE
CONTACT.



SHOULD
WE HEAD
OUT,
THEN?

HMM.
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
OPPOSING
SEKIREI...



HMPH.

HMM,
KUSANO
?

HMPH
...

MINATO
STILL
ISN'T
BACK
YET?



AHH...

...CHOO!



I'D LIKE
TO ASK YOU
SOMETHING.

NORTHERN
ASHIKABI.



!!



...WHO
HAVE A
PLAN TO
ESCAPE
TEITO.

N-
NORTH-
ERN
ASHIKA-
BI??

THERE ARE
ACTUALLY A
BUNCH OF US—
ASHIKABI AND
SEKIREI...



ESCAPE...
TEITO...

YOU'RE
WELCOME
TO JOIN US
TOO, IF YOU
WANT.

WOULD
YOU...

...HELP
US OUT?

...NO...
NO.

HEY,
MUSUBI-
CHAN.

OPEN
YOUR
EYES.



MUSUBI-
CHAN!!



YEAH.

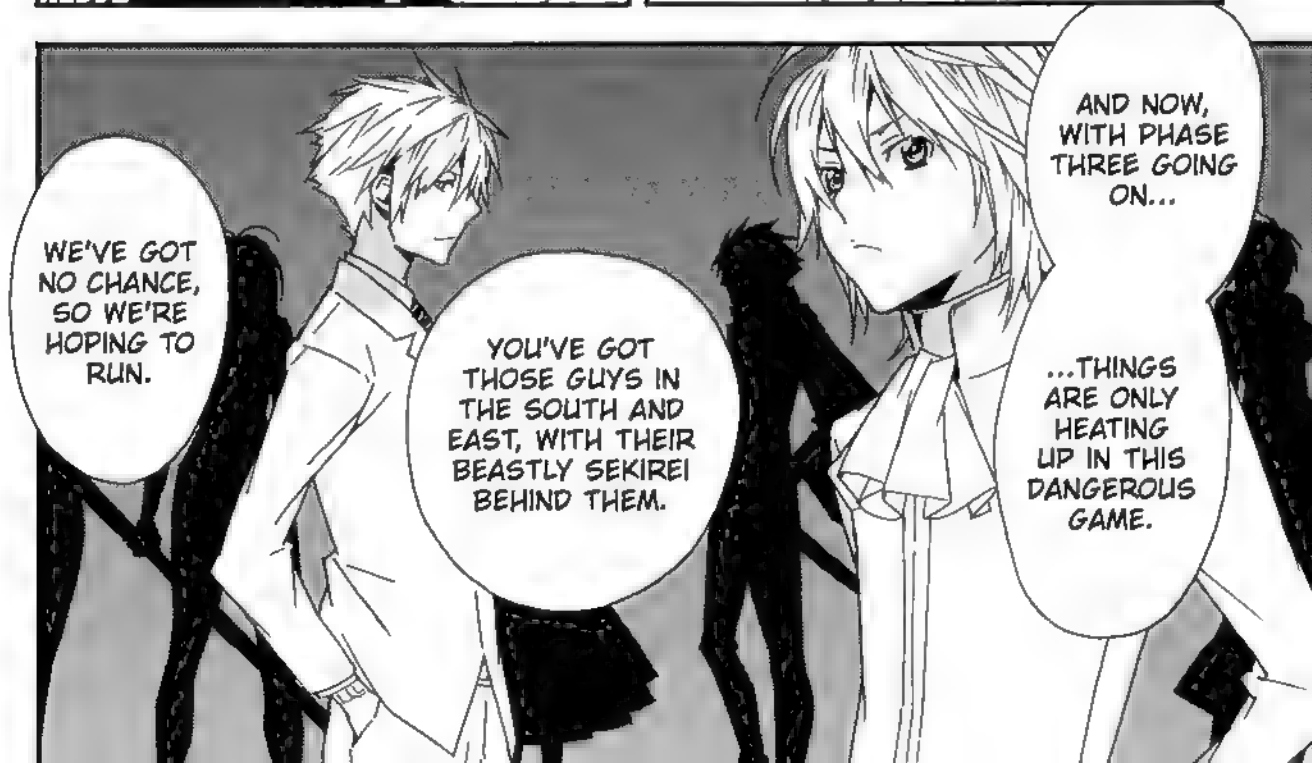
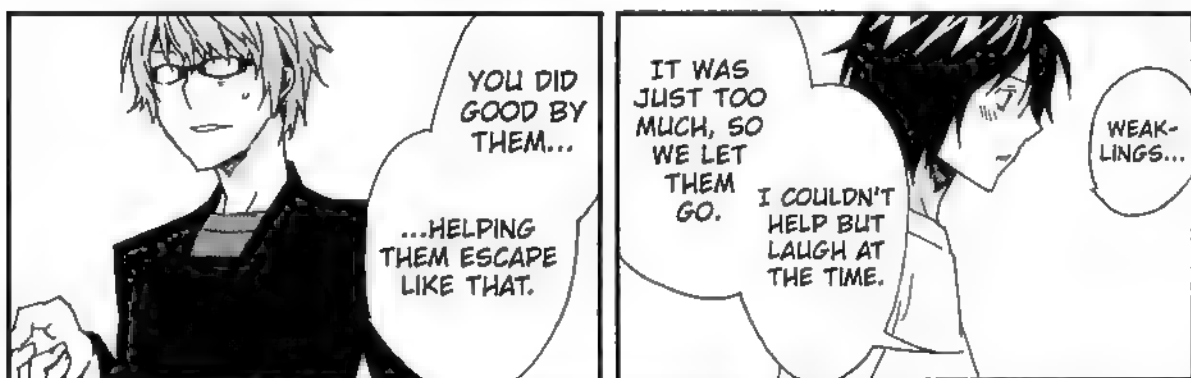
SEE
YA!

SOMEDAY,
HERE IN
SHINTOU
TEITO!



GOOD
LUCK!

WE'LL
MEET
AGAIN.





NAH,
NO WAY.
JUST
GIVE
UP...

FIRST,
WE TRIED
ASKING
THAT SEO
GUY...



... 'COS
YOU'RE
SURE...
...TO
DIE.



...ISN'T A
WEAKLING!

KUNO-
SAN...



WE
FOUND YOU
THROUGH A
DIFFERENT
SOURCE.

NOPE.

YOU HEARD
ABOUT ME...
FROM SEO-
SAN?



GUESS-
ING YOU
GUIDED
THEM
OVER
THAT
BRIDGE?

I MEAN,
THERE'S NO
WAY THOSE
WEAKLINGS
COULD'VE
ESCAPED ON
THEIR OWN.

YOU EVEN
FOUGHT
THE DIS-
CIPLINARY
SQUAD,
YEAH?



...
THEY'RE
NOT
WEAK-
LINGS.



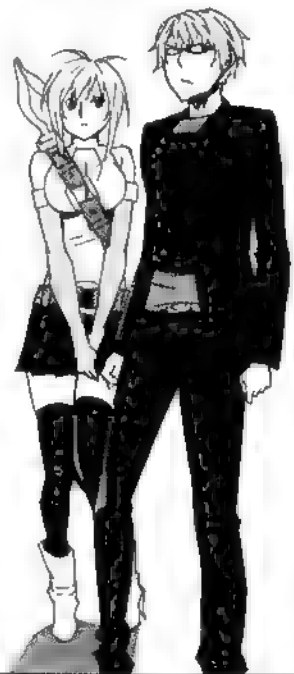
...MM-HM.



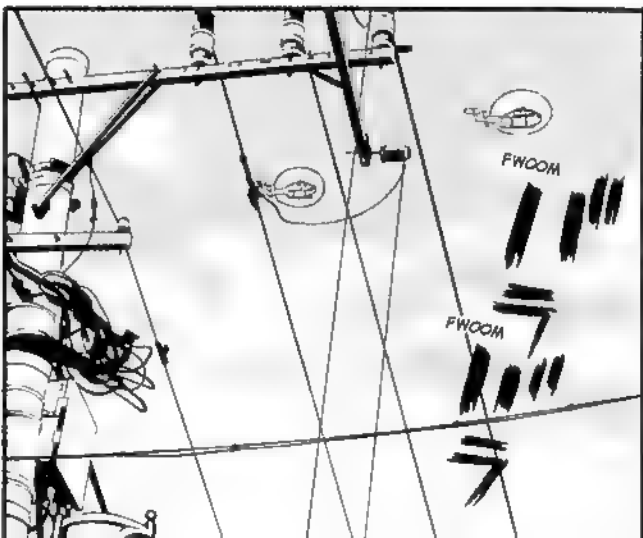
YOU CALL OTHER SEKIREI WEAKLINGS? YOU LAUGH AT SHIGI-KUN, WHO WAS TRYING HIS HARDEST?

IF SEO-SAN SAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, THEN IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

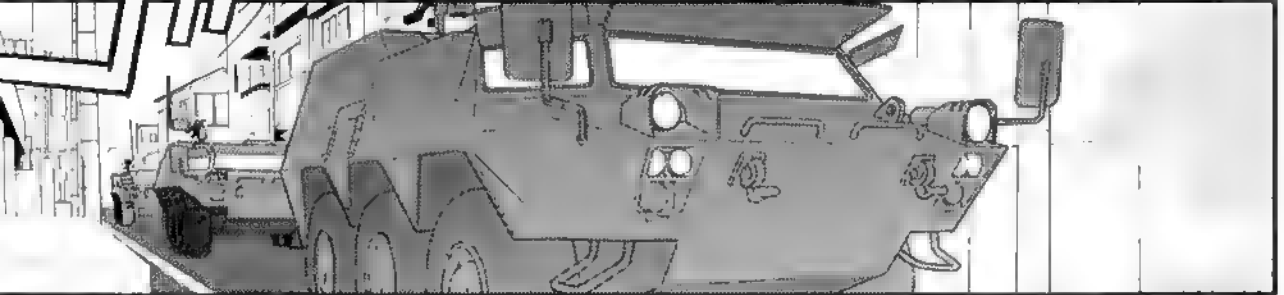
I'D NEVER HELP YOU.



CRAP. LET'S GO, NANAHA! IT'S MBI!



... TCH.







...
HEYA...



...MU-
CHAN.



FOR
WORK.

KARA-
SUBA-
SAMA!

FU-FU.
THAT'S AN
INTERESTING
LOOK FOR
YOU, MU-
CHAN.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

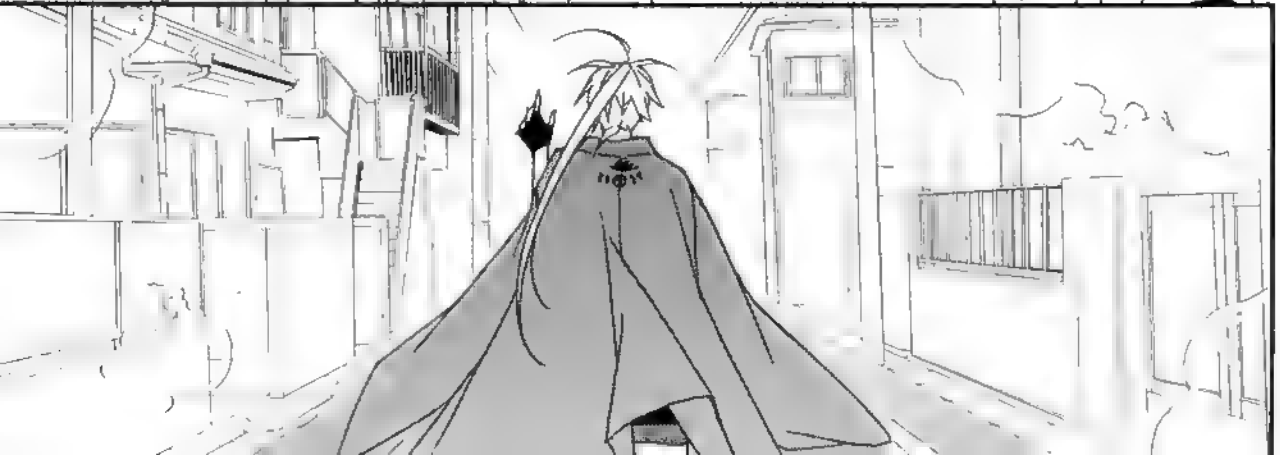


...WELL
NOW.



YOUR
SEKIREI
CORE...

...IS
GLOWING
BRIGHTER.





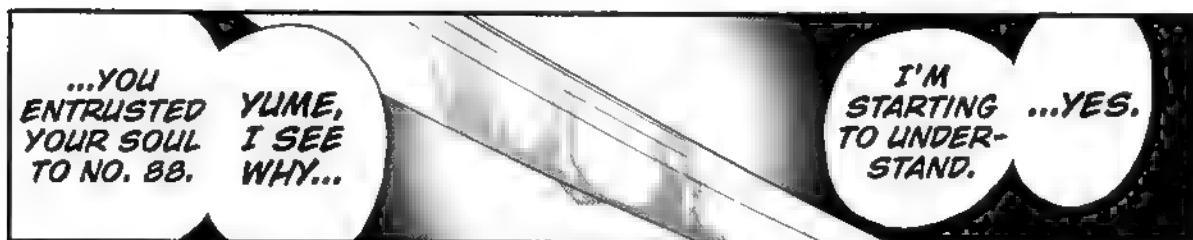
THOSE
TWO WE
JUST
MET...

...ARE
ABOUT
TO DIE.



...MINATO-
SAN.

DISCI-
PLINARY
SQUAD
...



...YOU
ENTRUSTED
YOUR SOUL
TO NO. 88.

YUME,
I SEE
WHY...

I'M
STARTING
TO UNDER-
STAND.

...YES.



...COULD
BECOME
EVEN
STRONGER
THAN YOU,
YUME.

THAT
GIRL...



IT SENDS
CHILLS
DOWN MY
SPINE!



Chapter 84: The Call



WE'RE HOME!



HUH?

M I N A T O !

WE ONLY WENT OUT TO DO SOME SHOPPING, BUT...

...THEN ALL THAT HAPPENED ...

AH.





A
GROUP OF
ASHIKABI
PLOTING
TO ESCAPE
TEITO...



—SO
THAT'S
WHAT IT
WAS.



I REFUSED
BEFORE
ASKING
YOU GUYS
HOW YOU
FELT...

SORRY.

NATU-
RALLY!



...BUT
I CANNOT
STAND
THOSE WHO
FLEE FROM
BATTLE!

THE CASE
OF NO. 95
WAS ONE
THING...



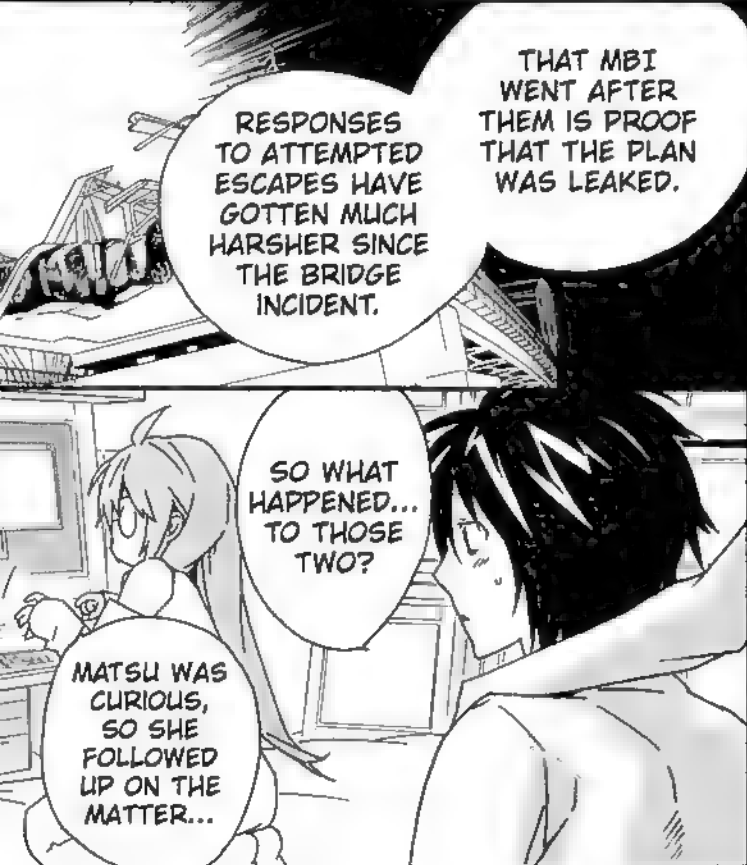
SAHA-
SHI...

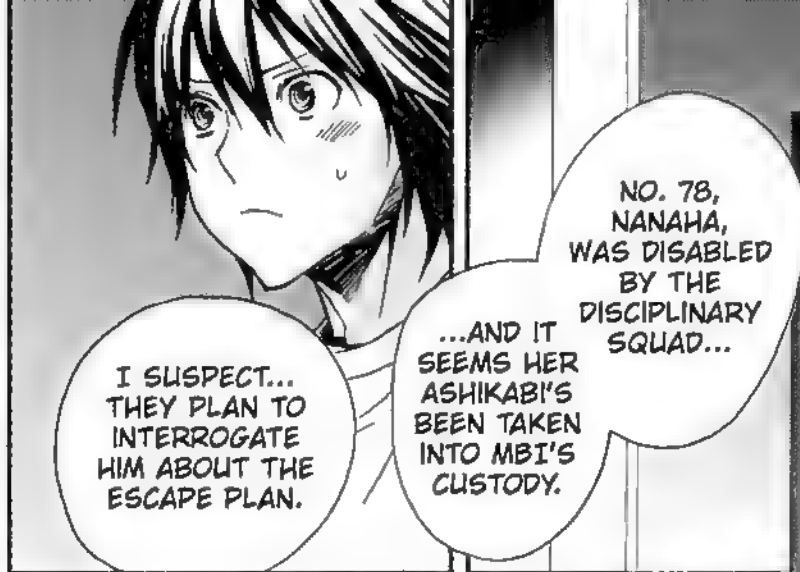
...ALL
OF YOUR
SEKIREI
FEEL THE
SAME AS
YOU.



SO THEY'D
BEEN HAVING
THEIR WAY UP
UNTIL NOW...

...BUT WHEN
THE GOING
GOT TOUGH,
THEY CHOSE
TO RUN?
BIG SIS CAN'T
GET BEHIND
THAT.

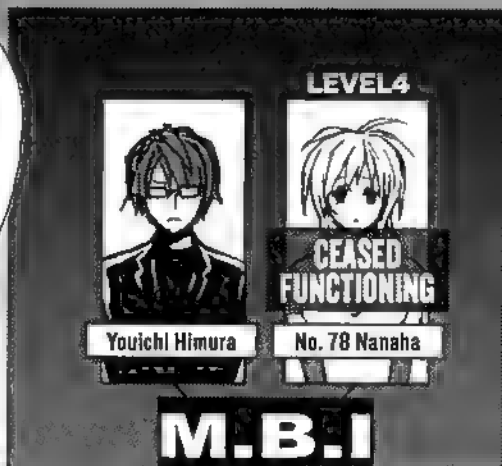




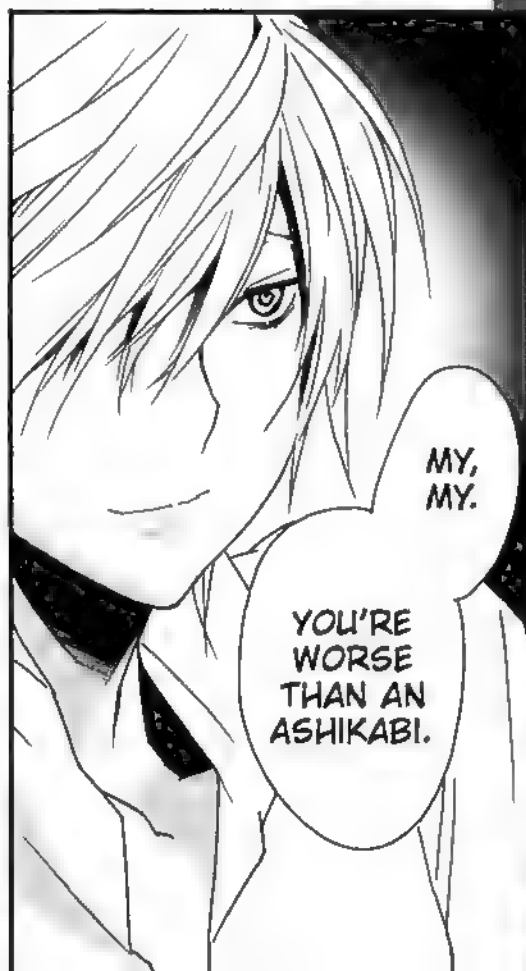
NO. 78, NANAHA, WAS DISABLED BY THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD...

...AND IT SEEMS HER ASHIKABI'S BEEN TAKEN INTO MBI'S CUSTODY.

I SUSPECT... THEY PLAN TO INTERROGATE HIM ABOUT THE ESCAPE PLAN.



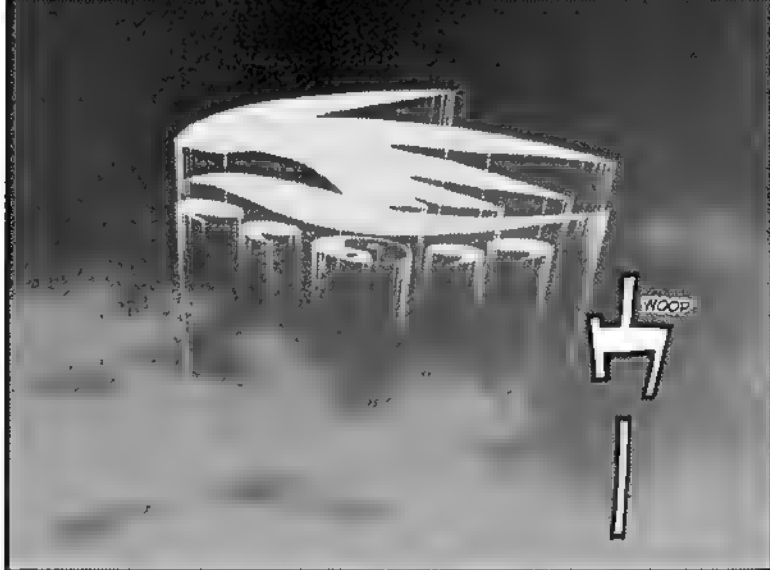














...my
dear
Ashikabi.

Sorry
to keep
you all
waiting...



The
third
round...



...is
about to
begin!





I'll explain the rules once you're on site. Isn't this fun?

Three teams will participate.
Each Ashikabi is allowed three Sekirei.

Three teams will participate.



THREE SEKIREI.....



OF
COURSE

...

...
MUSUBI
WILL
COME!!

...I
WILL
JOIN
YOU!!





**...to the
site of
round
three!**

**Welcome,
my dear
Ashikabi**
...



**Here,
on this
stage—**

**...and
fight
some
more.**

**You
will fight
alongside
your
Sekirei.
Fight,
fight...**

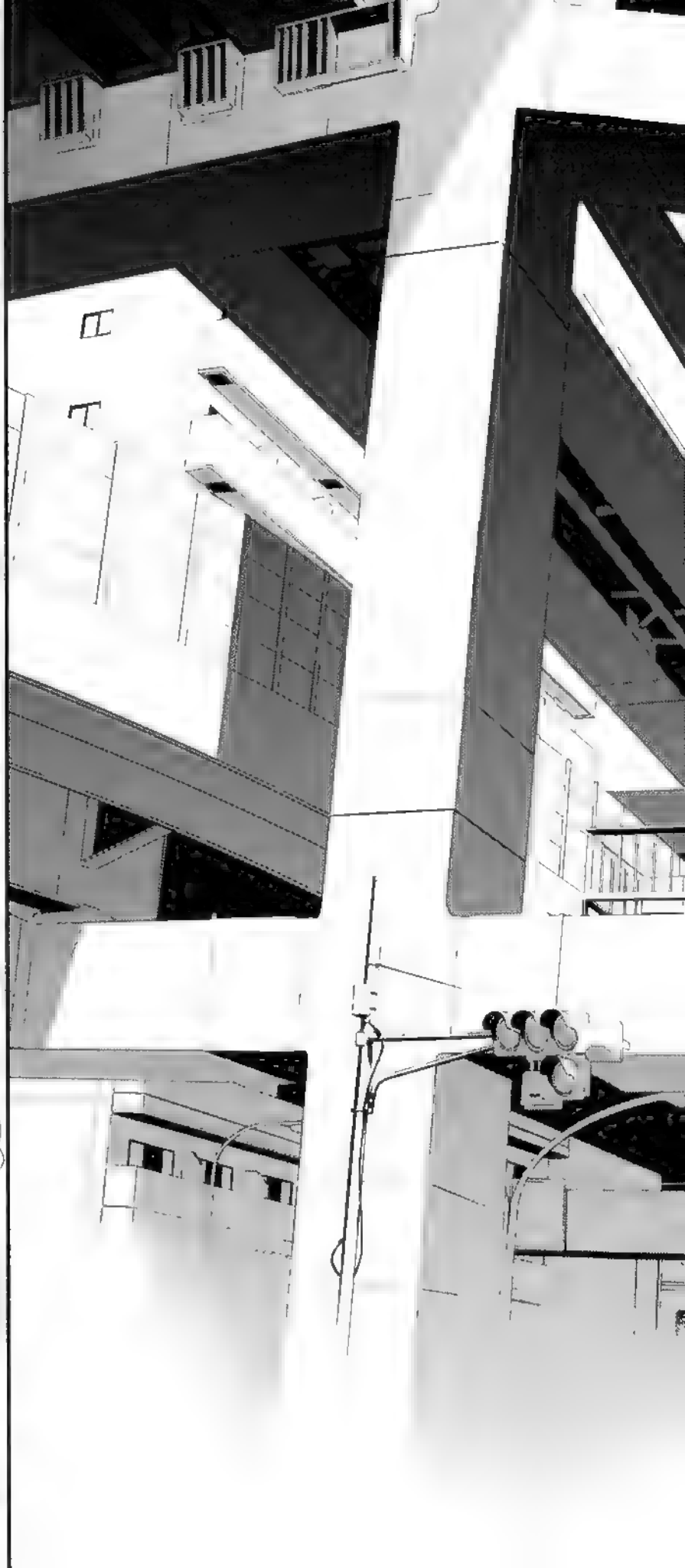


***Teito's
Central
Junction
!!***

Chapter 85: Participants

***Teito's
Central
Junction
!!***

Chapter 85: Participants







THE AREA'S
PROBABLY
BEEN
COMPLETELY
EVACUATED.

I DON'T
SENSE
ANYONE
AROUND
HERE...
NO CARS
EITHER...



SO WE
MAY FIGHT
TO OUR
HEARTS'
CONTENT,
THEN.



I'M SO
EXCITED!
♡♡



EACH
ASHIKABI
IS ALLOWED
THREE
SEKIREI...



YES!
♡

HA
HA...

L-LET'S
DO OUR
BEST.



WHO
WILL YOU
CHOOSE,
MINA-TAN?



THIS
WHOLE
COMPE-
TITION'S
A LITTLE
SHAME-
LESS...

KU-FU.
KU-FU-
FU.

WELL,
MINA-
TAN?



MUSUBI
WILL
FIGHT!!

I OUGHT
TO GO!



I ASSUME
YOU'LL
TAKE BIG
SIS WITH
YOU?

KU TOO!
KU TOO!
KU TOO!





...IF WE HAVE
TO FIGHT TO
MAKE IT PAST
THIS STAGE... BUT...



GRIP
...I...

...REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO LEAD ANY
OF YOU INTO
DANGER.



IF THAT'S
THE ONLY WAY
FORWARD
FOR US...

...THEN
I'LL FIGHT
TOO.

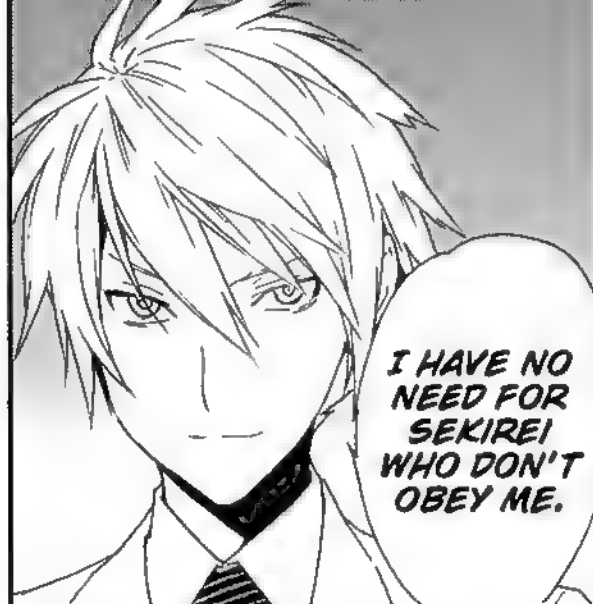


I'LL FIGHT
WITH ALL
I HAVE.

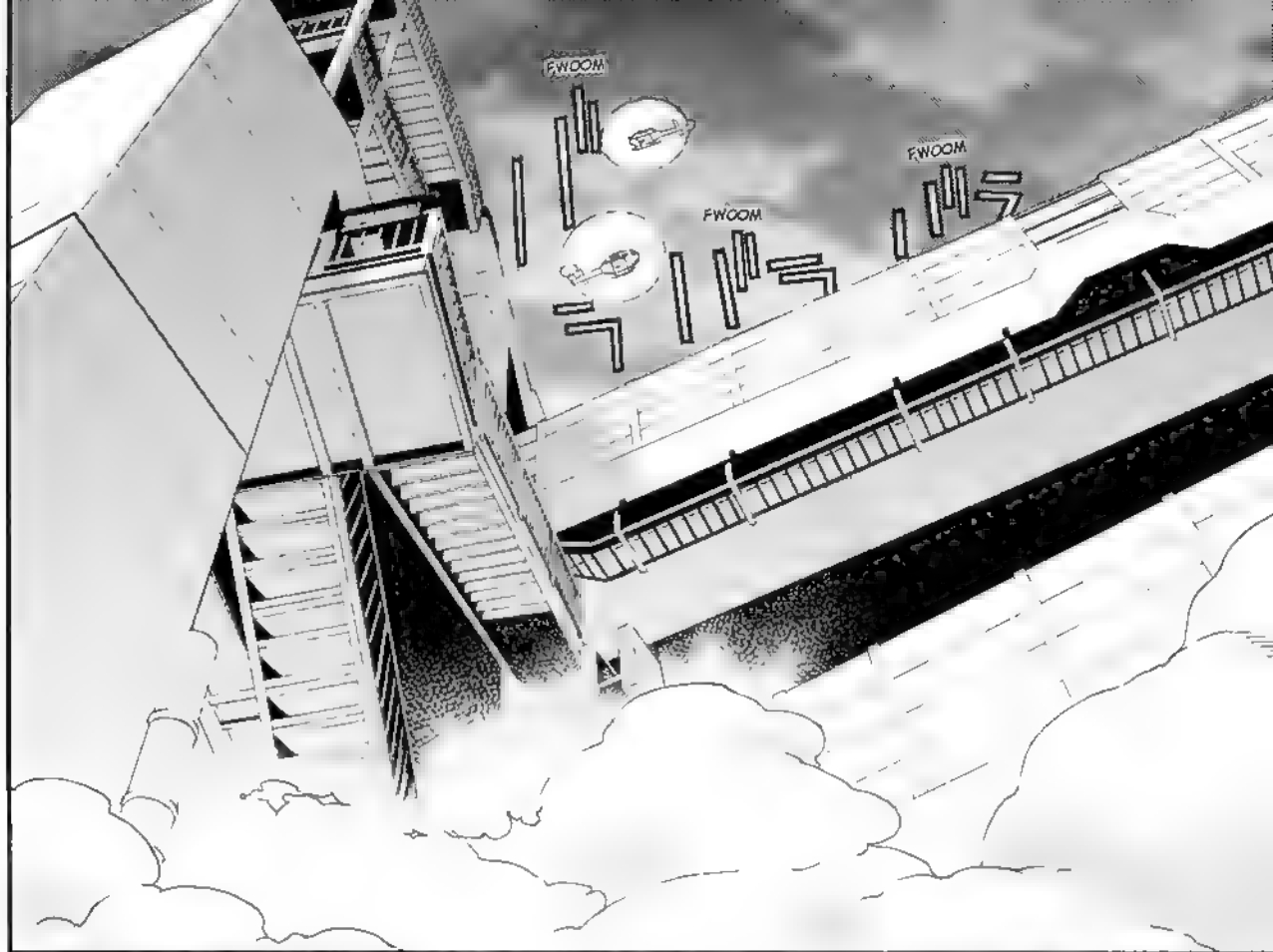












LOOKS
LIKE...ALL
TRAFFIC IS
STOPPED...
ON THIS
HIGHWAY...

ALWAYS
WITH THE
THEATRICALS.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THE CEO
LAID DOWN
ALL THIS
DAMN
SMOKE.

OR MAYBE
HE'S JUST
HAVING FUN
WITH THIS.

IT'S MEANT TO
DEMONSTRATE
MBI'S POWER
TO THE WORLD.

SERIOUSLY?
THAT'S CRAZY.

HEH...
HEH
HEH...
THAT'S
FUNNY
.....

AH-
HA-HA,
NICE
ONE!

OR PERHAPS
THOSE TWO
GOALS ARE ONE
AND THE SAME. I'D
HONESTLY RATHER
NOT UNDERSTAND
HOW THAT WARPED
MIND THINKS.

**BENI-
TSUBASA.**

HAIHANE.

EITHER
WAY, WE'RE
HERE ON
THE CEO'S
ORDERS.

LET'S
ENJOY
THIS THIRD
ROUND.

SNAP
110
4
1.



ROGER
THAT!
♡



I WONDER
WHO'S
COME TO
DIE TODAY?
☆



Chapter 86: Third Round, Start!



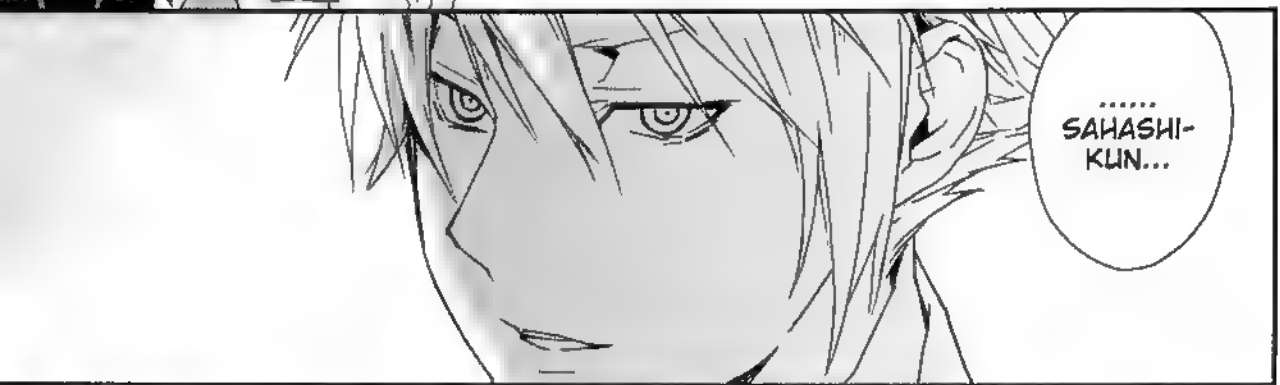
HAVE
YOU...

...EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT TAKING
DOWN MBI?



...MBI
...?

TAKING
DOWN...





THERE ARE
PLENTY OUT
THERE WHO'VE
HAD THEIR
LIVES TURNED
UPSIDE
DOWN...

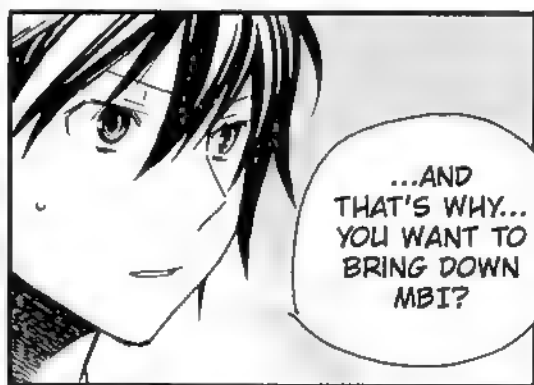
...BY MBI'S
SELFISH
DISPLAY OF
ITS MASSIVE
POWER.

AND IT'S
NOT JUST
YOU.



AND YOU
HAVE THE
POWER TO
DO IT.

YES.



...AND
THAT'S WHY...
YOU WANT TO
BRING DOWN
MBI?



...MY, MY.
YOU TOO?

...?

M-ME?
BUT I'M
JUST A
ROUNIN,
LIKE YOU
SAID...



YOU
CAN'T SEE
YOUR OWN
VALUE.



THIS
WOULD BE
FOR THOSE
OTHER, POOR
ASHIKABI'S
SAKE TOO.

MINATO
SAHASHI-
KUN.

WON'T YOU
JOIN ME?



I'VE MET HIGA
A FEW TIMES
MYSELF.



ANYWAY,
NOT REALLY
A GUY YOU
WANNA PISS
OFF.

AND
HE'S GOT A
FEW OTHER
ASHIKABI
UNDER HIM.

HE'S
ACTUALLY
OPPOSED TO
THE WHOLE
SEKIREI
PLAN.





GO
EASY
ON ME,
WON'T
YOU?

TODAY, WE
MEET AS
ENEMIES.

IF YOU
HAPPEN
TO CHANGE
YOUR MIND,
GIVE ME A
RING.

BUT...



SO OUR
NEGOTI-
ATIONS
ARE OVER
BEFORE
THEY'VE
BEGIN?

HMPH
...



I
SWEAR
"...
...YOU TWO
SHARE THAT
SAME STUB-
BORNNESS.



...THAT
GUY...

HE SAID
HE DOESN'T
NEED SEKIREI
WHO DON'T
OBEY HIM...



.....
SAHASHI.

...!?



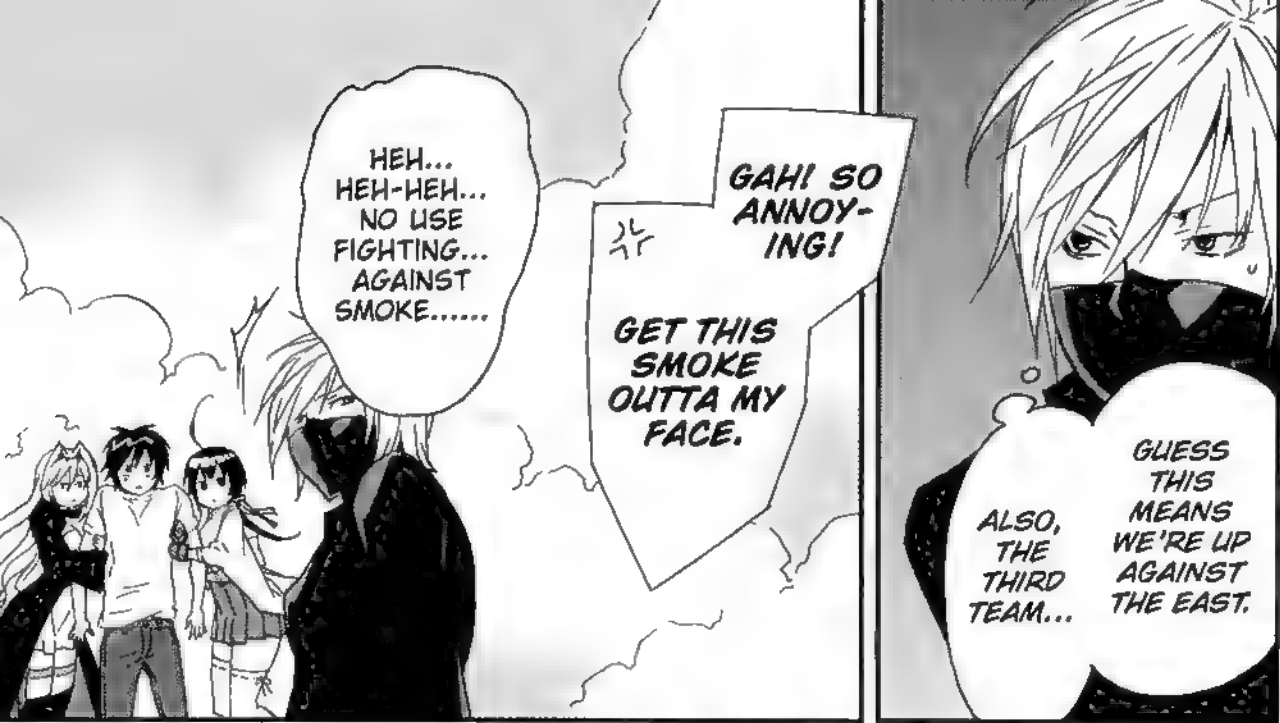
NO,
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEAN.

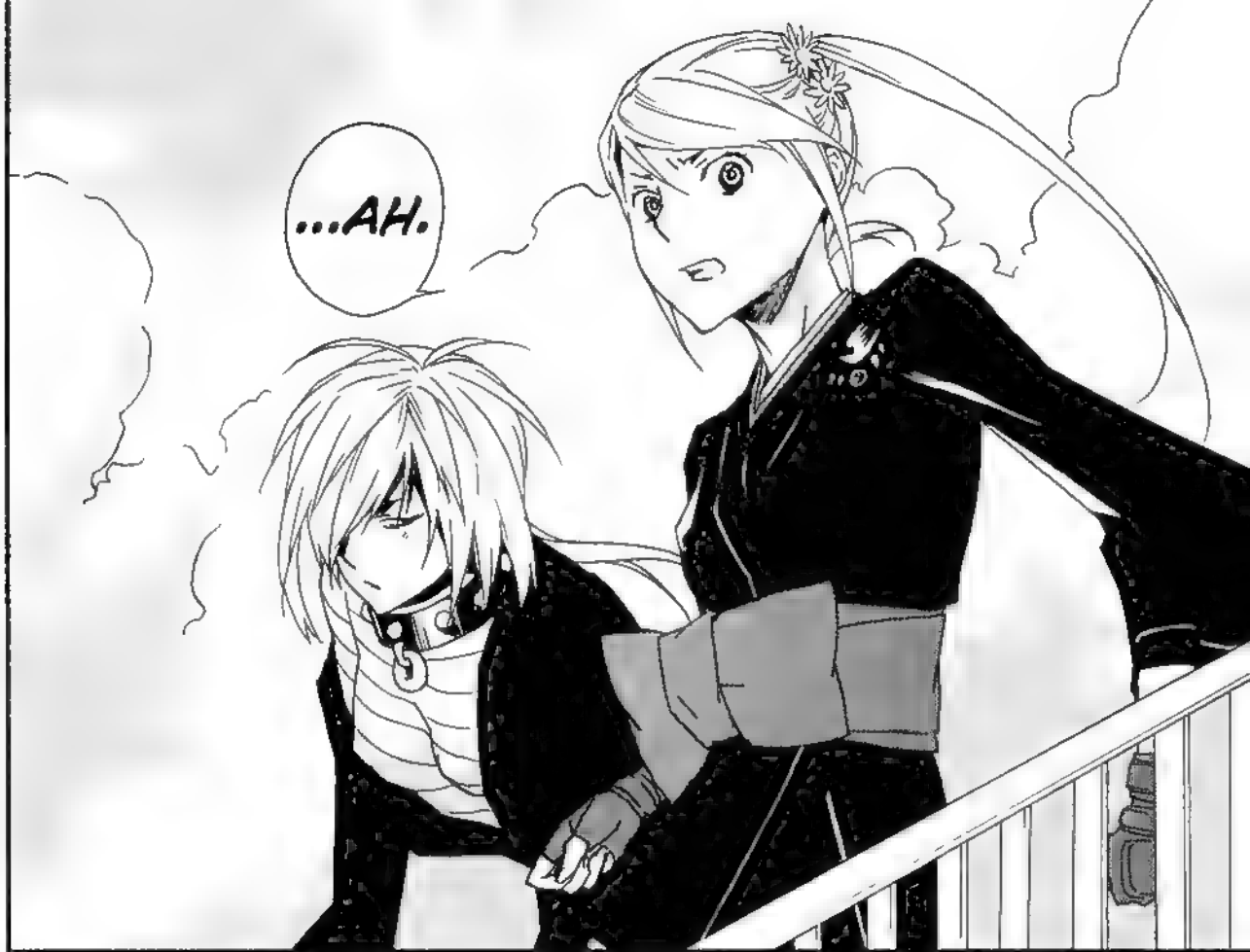
STRATEGICALLY
SPEAKING,
IT MIGHT BE
SMART TO HAVE
A WORKING
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE
"EAST."

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
SHOULD
REFUSE HIM,
JUST LIKE
THAT?

AH...SORRY.
I KNOW YOU'RE
IN THE CAMP THAT
WANTS TO TAKE
DOWN MBI,
KAGARI-SAN...









Mwa-
ha-ha-
ha-
ha!!



All the
players
...



SO
LOOOUD.



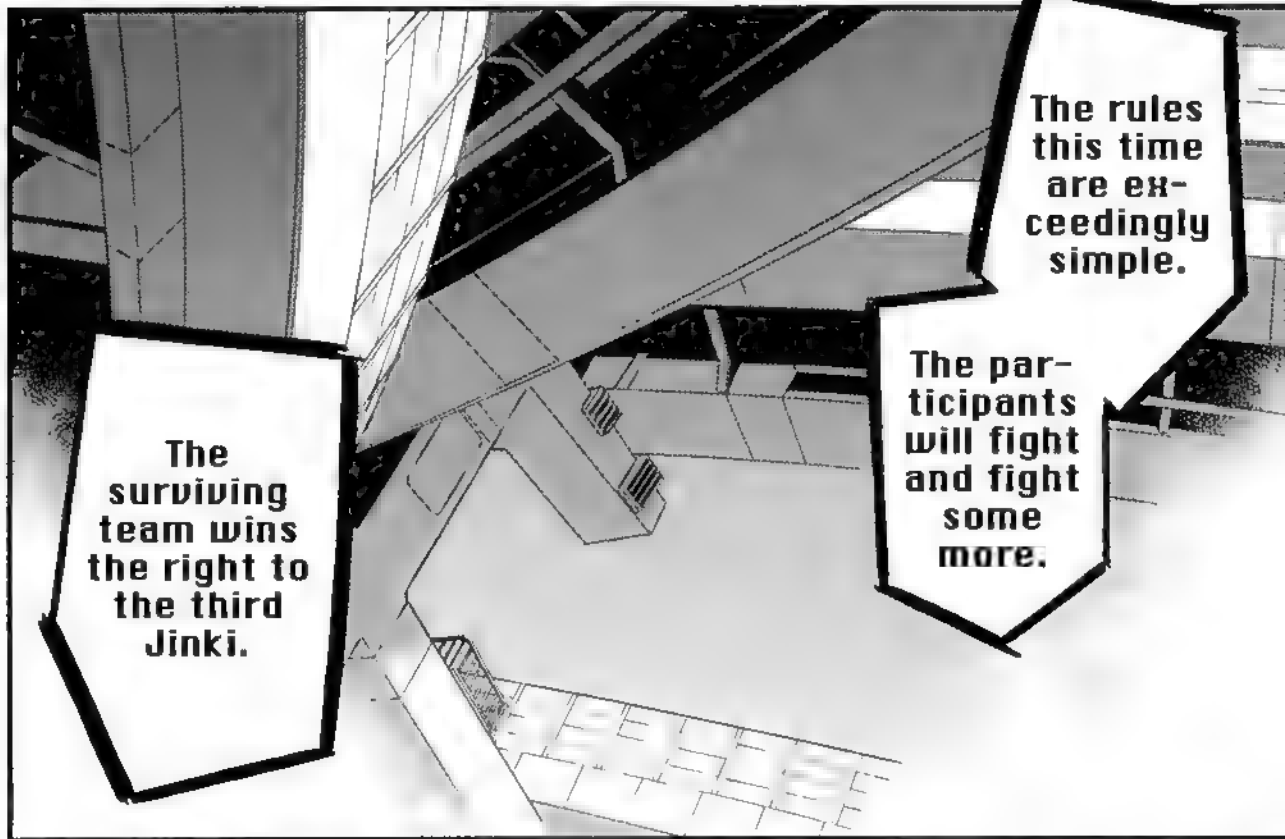
...have
arrived
at the
stage!

SO HE'S
SET UP
SPEAKERS
EVERY-
WHERE?



In that case...

...let
the third
round
begin!!



The rules
this time
are ex-
ceedingly
simple.

The par-
ticipants
will fight
and fight
some
more.

The
surviving
team wins
the right to
the third
Jinki.

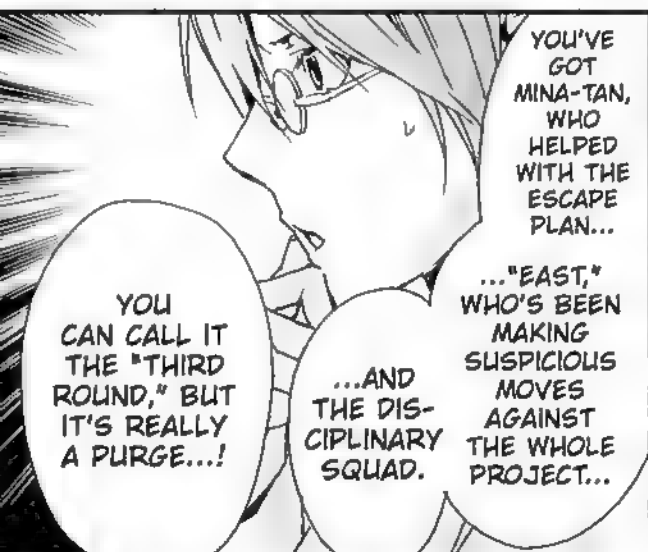


This
is —

That's
right.



**A battle
royale!!**



YOU
CAN CALL IT
THE "THIRD
ROUND," BUT
IT'S REALLY
A PURGE....!

YOU'VE
GOT
MINA-TAN,
WHO
HELPED
WITH THE
ESCAPE
PLAN...

...AND
THE DIS-
CIPLINARY
SQUAD.

..."EAST,"
WHO'S BEEN
MAKING
SUSPICIOUS
MOVES
AGAINST
THE WHOLE
PROJECT...



...YOU'VE
DONE
IT NOW,
CEO.





BATTLE
...
...ROYALE



IF WORST
COMES TO
WORST, I
CAN HELP.



IF I MELT
DOWN,
THEN AT
LEAST
YOU GUYS
CAN...



WHISPER
SAHA-
SHI.



THIS IS
WHAT I
FEARED
MOST...
...!



SO
LET'S
GO WIN
THIS.

THAT'S
OUR ONLY
OPTION.



...
KAGARI-
SAN.

I'M NOT
LOSING
ANYBODY,
HERE.

INDEED,
HOMURA!!

SAHA-
SHI...

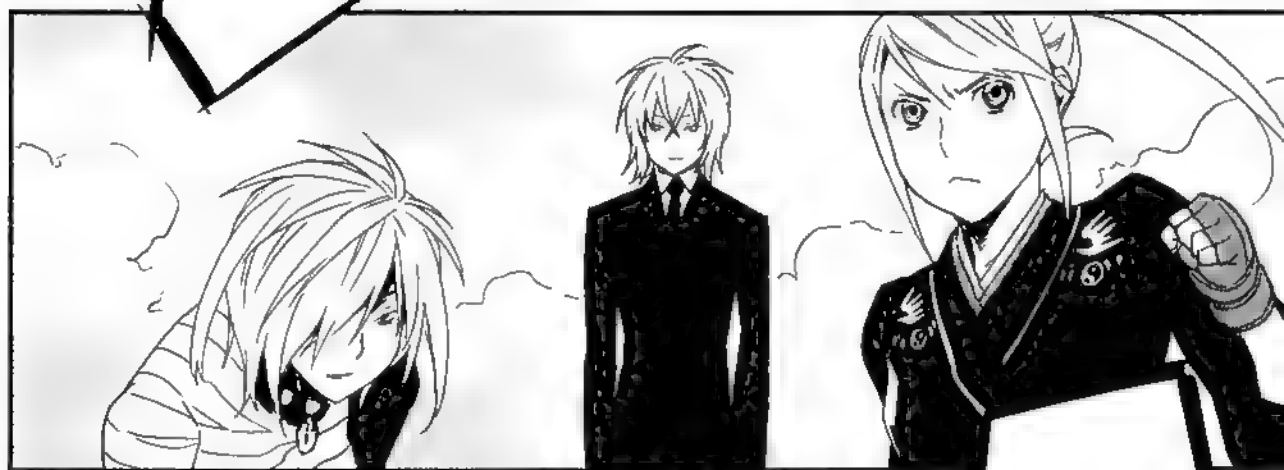


WE'LL
ALL FIGHT
TOGETHER!
♡

YOU
WON'T
STEAL
OUR
SPOT-
LIGHT!!

NOW...





Side Story: The Hair-Raising Modifier



IT ALL
BEGAN
WITH AN
INNOCENT
QUESTION
FROM ME.

HEY,
TSUKIUMI.



YOUR
CLOTHES
WERE ALWAYS
CLEAN, SO
I ASSUMED
YOU WEREN'T
LIVING BY THE
ROADSIDE.

BEFORE
YOU WERE
WINGED,
I ALWAYS
WONDERED
WHERE
YOU WERE
COMING
FROM.

WERE
YOU TRULY
PONDERING
SUCH
THOUGHTS
!?

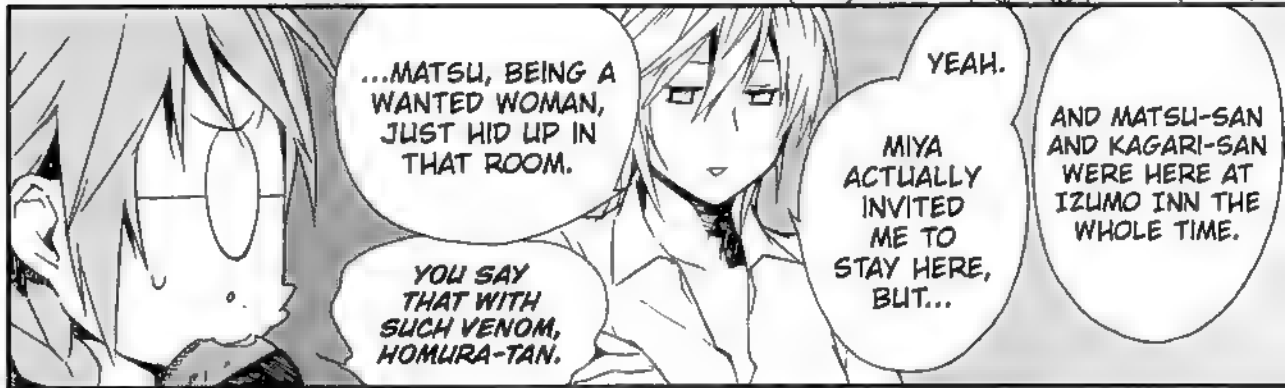
HOMU-
RA!

OH, I'M
CURIOUS
ABOUT
THAT
TOO.

WHAT
AN UNEX-
PECTED
INQUIRY.

WHERE'D
YOU GO
AFTER
LEAVING
MBI?







I
STAYED
...

...WITH MY
MODIFIER.



THIS IS
A FINE
CHANCE
...

...TO
TELL YOU
MY TALE.



SHE WAS NOT
MODIFIER TO ANY
OTHERS HERE.
WHILE YOU ALL
EMERGED INTO THE
WORLD DIRECTLY
FROM MBI...

...MY
CIRCUM-
STANCES
WERE
SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT.



EVER
SINCE I WAS A
SPROUT EVEN
SMALLER THAN
YOUNG KUSANO,
I LIVED WITH
THAT HAG...

...WITH
MY
MODIFIER,
IN HER
MANSION
HERE IN
TEITO.

TSUKIUMI!!



YOU!!

GRANNY
WANTS
TO GIVE
TSUKIUMI
A SHOT.
SHOTS
HURT.

I REFUSE.

COME DOWN AT
ONCE! HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE I TOLD
YOU THAT CLIMBING
UP SO HIGH IS
DANGEROUS!?

MY
BUTT IS
ALREADY
FULL OF
HOLES.

A LADY
SHOULD
NOT BE
TALKING
ABOUT HER
BUTT LIKE
THAT!

BUT I
GUARANTEE
YOUR BUTT'LL
BE SORE FOR
MAKING ME
CHASE AFTER
YOU!



FWUMP

WAAA!



AH.

TOPPLE



ROAR

ぐいあー

EEK!

GRAB
thru

NOW TIME
FOR YOUR
PUNISH-
MENT!!



GRANNY...



SQUEEZE

DON'T
WORRY
ME LIKE
THAT...!

YOU
FOOL
...!!



ANYHOW,
THE HAG
WAS A STRICT
WOMAN, IN
THAT SENSE.

I TREMBLED
IN FEAR EVERY
DAY AT THAT
YOUNG AGE...

THINKING BACK,
THOSE SHOTS
WERE LIKELY MEANT
TO HELP MY SEKIREI
BODY ADAPT TO THE
ENVIRONMENT...

MATSU'S
SEKIREI TRIVIA



★ ADAPTIVE MODIFICATION
BEGINS FROM AN EARLY
AGE. THAT'S WHY MATURE
SEKIREI DON'T REQUIRE
FURTHER MODIFICATION.

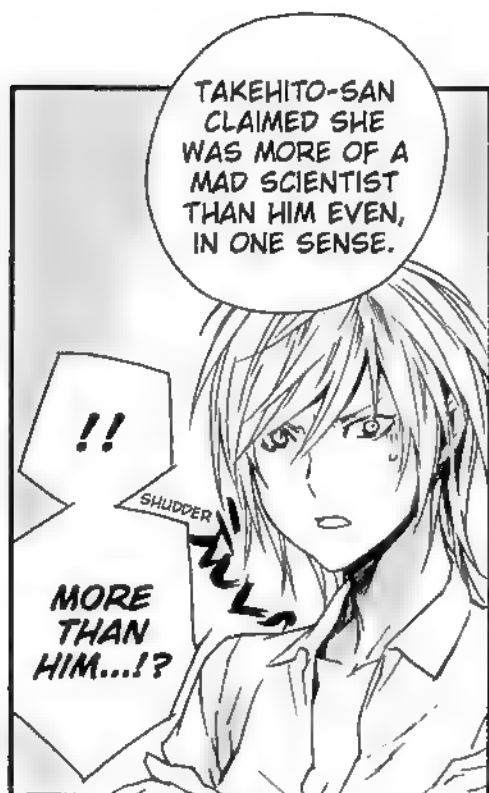


...FROM
TAKE-
HITO-
SAN.

THIS WOMAN...
I'VE HEARD
ABOUT HER...

KU'S ALSO
SCARED OF
SHOTS!

SOUNDS
A LOT LIKE
MY MOM,
ACTUALLY
.....





SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL.

IT'S
FOR
YOU.



TSUKI-
UMI-
SAN.

JOLT

WH-WHAT
IS IT!?



Are
you
well?

Y-YES.



...WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
WRITTEN
...

...SINCE
LEAVING
HOME,
TSUKIUMI
?



...
IT'S...

...IT'S
ME.

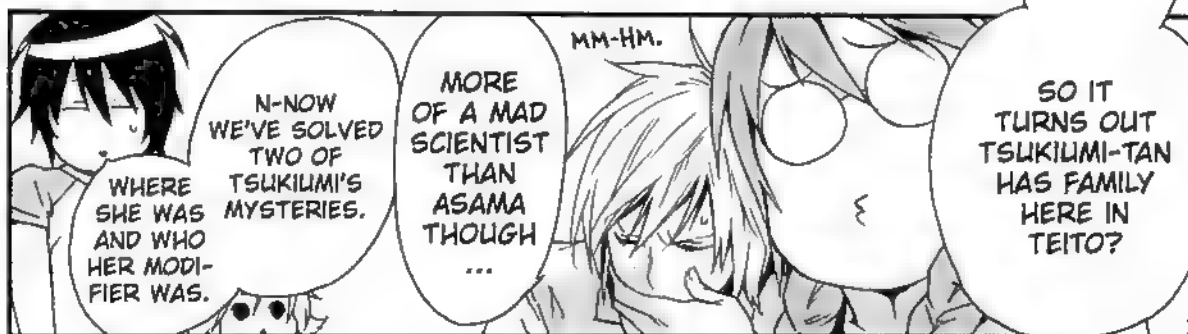


A-AND YOU,
GRANNY?

I'm
fine.



INTER-
ESTING.



WHERE
SHE WAS
AND WHO
HER MODI-
FIER WAS.

N-NOW
WE'VE SOLVED
TWO OF
TSUKIUMI'S
MYSTERIES.

MORE
OF A MAD
SCIENTIST
THAN
ASAMA
THOUGH
...

MM-HM.

SO IT
TURNS OUT
TSUKIUMI-TAN
HAS FAMILY
HERE IN
TEITO?



MY
ASHI-
KABI...

...NO.

...AND
MY DEAR
FRIENDS...!



...YES.

I'LL
BRING MY
HUSBAND
TO MEET
YOU NEXT
TIME.



TO BE
CONTINUED

IN
VOLUME

10

...!



OUR ANIME'S
GETTING
ANOTHER
SEASON,
MUSUBU!!

YES,
GEKKAI-SAN!
LOOKS ♡
LIKE WE'LL
ALSO BE GO
TOGETHER
♡ FOREVER!



MINATO'S NIGHTMARES GO ON,
FOREVER AND EVER...

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

PAGE 9

"If you shoot lightning, then you should be wearing tiger-stripe bikinis!!": Sanada is apparently a fan of Rumiko Takahashi's *Urusei Yatsura* series, whose heroine, the alien Lum, wears a tiger-stripe bikini and has lightning powers.

PAGE 10

"I'm Nishi Sanada-sama." / "Sanada of the West...!!": "Nishi" means "west" in Japanese, and Nishi Sanada just happens to be the powerful Ashikabi from the western area of Teito.

SEKIREI 9

Sakurako Gokurakuin

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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